Toronto metro

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

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Toronto metro

Your essential daily news | THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 2016

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TRUDEAUS IN CUBA

Sophie brings message of gender equality — and leaves the kids at home

metroNEWS

EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

It's not hard to hire women

Toronto's **Pamela Jeffery**, who recruits women for seats on private sector boards, said companies find a whole new perspective when they broaden their search

metroNEWS

We need more #WomenOnBoards A Metro special focus

Our indigenous makeover

PLACEMAKING

Ontario Place is a good start, but more is needed in T.O.

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Ontario Place is getting an indigenous makeover as the province converts it into a new urban park.

When the first phase of the former exhibition grounds open next year, features will include a rock wall that evokes the Lake Iroquois shoreline and indigenous carvings that honour the Mississaugas of the New Credit First Nation whose traditional territory the park sits on.

A cycling and walking trail that winds through the park will include "marker trees," traditionally used to by "First Nations communities to mark the way on a trail towards water," the project's chief design architect, Patrick Morello, said during a tour of the site Wednesday.

> **I don't want it to be a tourist attraction.**
> Sam Mukwa Kloetstra

In the wake of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, Canada's urban aboriginal population has been calling for more examples of "indigenous placemaking," places where their heritage is acknowledged and their culture can be practiced.

Here in Toronto, prominent street signs have been amended to include their original Ojibwe names — signs along Spadina now include the word "Ishpadinaa," for example.

Sam Mukwa Kloetstra, youth coordinator with the Toronto Indigenous Health Advisory Circle and a member of the Indigenous Place Makers Council, said it's "exciting" to see the province create new indigenous spaces in the city, but he's curious how the changes at Ontario Place will play out. "Ontario Place is a bit out of the way," he said. "I don't want us to be tucked away. I don't want it to be a tourist attraction."

Kloetstra said he'd like to see more examples of indigenous placemaking spread throughout the city, a sentiment echoed by Sarah Midanik, executive director of Toronto's Native Women's Resource Centre.

"I'm encouraged by what's going on, but until I can walk through the streets of Toronto and see myself reflected in the city, there's still more work to be done," she said. WITH FILES FROM TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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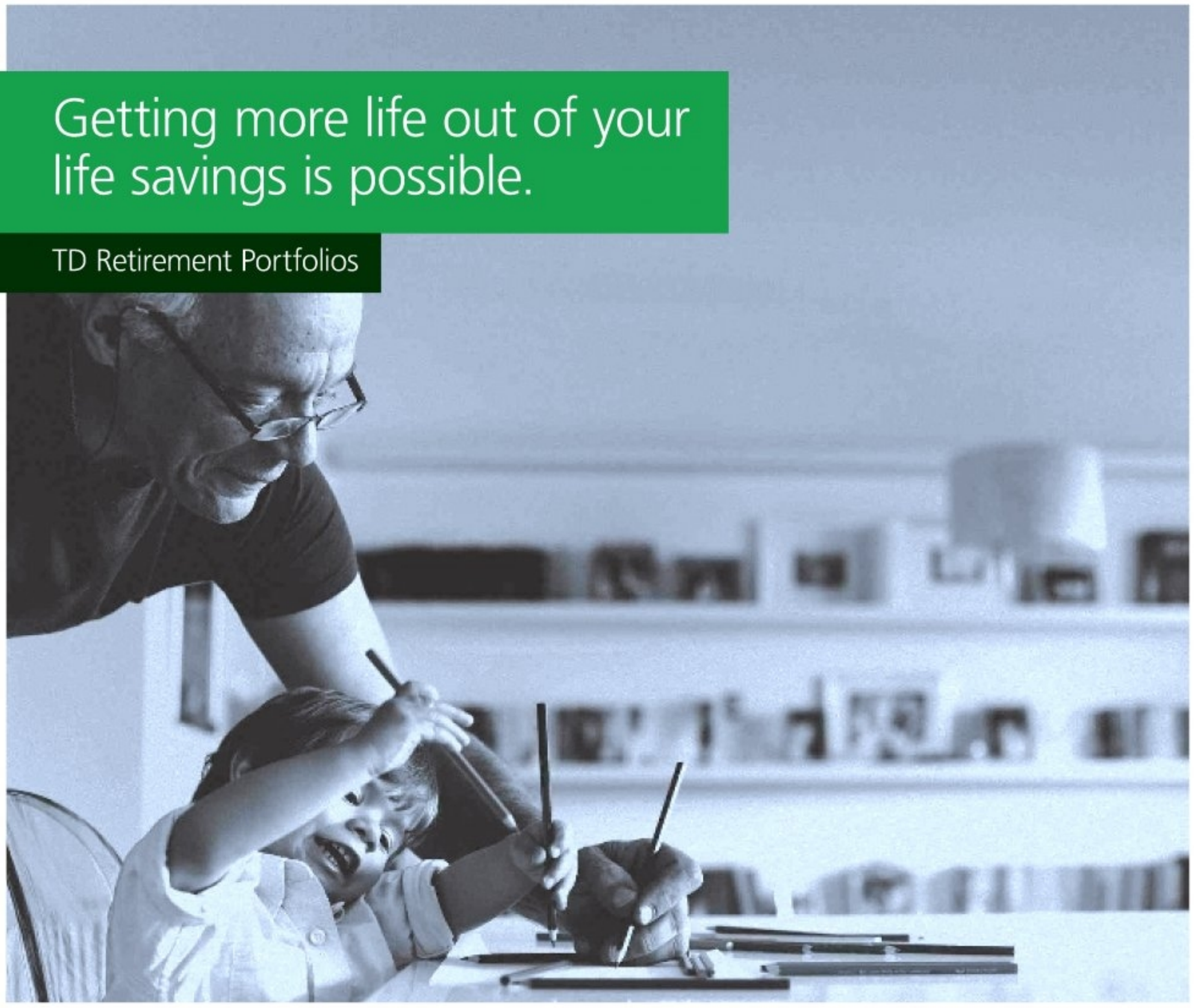

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metro NEWS
Your essential daily news

The Royal Canadian Geographic Society has pitched the Gray Jay as Canada's national bird

BUSINESS

Thirst for wine storage

Tens of millions of dollars' worth of wine lies behind an unmarked door that only opens with fingerprint ID and a matching keycard.

Fine Wine Reserve founder and CEO Marc Russell said not advertising their location provides "more security than anything else." The climate-controlled underground facility holds anywhere from 70 to 7,000 bottles.

Russell started his wine storage business in 2003. Since then, a number of wine storage facilities have popped up in Toronto, fuelled in part by growing demand from an aging population looking to downsize and a younger generation with a thirst for new culinary experiences.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

It's the Murdoch Mysteries escape game

Shaftesbury, which produces the Murdoch Mysteries series, and Secret City Adventures, which produces the "escape games" at Casa Loma, are joining forces for the Secret of Station House No. 4, set to launch Feb. 23 at George Brown House. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

A cause worth studying

CHARITY

Textbooks sent to people in need, or sold to students

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

You might want to hold off on tossing those textbooks you haven't opened since graduation in the garbage bin. A Toronto social enterprise can still make good use of them.

Textbooks for Change, an initiative that started three years ago in London, Ont., has moved its home base here and is collecting used textbooks from Toronto universities, colleges and neighbourhoods.

The project's purpose is threefold. Half of the donated books get donated to university libraries in East Africa, while about 20 per cent are resold at affordable prices to students in North America, with proceeds covering operational costs and funding local, student-led initiatives. Plus, the effort keeps books from being left to rot in landfills by making sure anything that does get tossed is done so in an environmentally friendly way.

Founder Chris Janssen got the idea from personal experiences when he travelled to East Africa and realized the need for textbooks was "immense."

"Library shelves at many universities were practically bare," he said. "Students were forgoing meals to be able to photocopy their notes. It was really frustrating."

Brady Burke, left, and Haleigh King are members of Textbooks for Change that collects used textbooks for, among other things, libraries in Africa. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

> Students were forgoing meals to be able to photocopy their notes.
> Chris Janssen

Even more frustrating was to remember that back home, he and many of his colleagues had stacks of textbooks just waiting to be thrown away.

Textbooks for Change agents travel to universities in East Africa to assess the need, evaluate student traffic in libraries and talk to officials and students about what types of books they need.

In three years of operation, the group has donated more than 130,000 books to libraries at Kenyan universities such as Maseno, Moi and Masaai Mara. The plan is to collect at least another 25,000 textbooks this holiday season, which will be donated to schools in the country early next year.

"I see this project as a way of creating a bridge to share knowledge between Canada and East Africa," said Janssen. "Our focus is on promoting access to education and ensuring sustainability of our project."

DROPBOXES

- Books can be donated at T4C dropboxes at Ryerson University, University of Toronto, York University, Humber College, Centre for Social Innovation or T4C office near King and Bathurst.
- More information at textbooksforchange.com

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Professor to join debate on Bill C-16

GENDER IDENTITY

Controversial stance leads to backlash at U of T campus

Jordan Peterson, a professor at the University of Toronto who gained national attention last month when he refused to use gender neutral pronouns, will take part in a debate on Saturday to discuss Bill C-16 and the gender provisions of the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Peterson previously took issue with the Ontario Human Rights Commission's definition of "gender identity," which is described as a person's "sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum," and Bill C-16, federal legislation that would change the Canadian Human Rights Code and Criminal Code, making discrimination on the basis of gender identity or expression illegal.

He argued that it was a matter of free speech. "I don't believe that it's intelligent and appropriate for the government to mandate the words that its citizens should speak," Peterson told Torstar News Service.

The debate, which will deal with these issues, has already led to some backlash on the University of Toronto campus.

The Queer Caucus of CUPE 3902 wrote an open letter urging members of the university community to boycott the event.

"It is clear to us that Professor Peterson is attempting to cloak his fear of transgender people under the guise of scholarly expertise, protected under the aegis of academic freedom, yet his academic work is not the study of gender," the letter read.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

U of T professor Jordan Peterson. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO FILE

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CARDING

Activist demands police destroy data

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

One of Toronto's most prominent anti-carding activists is demanding Toronto police "destroy" the data they've collected through street checks.

Toronto's police board is slated to discuss provincial regulation around carding on Thursday. The new law, which comes into effect in 2017, sets out rules around street checks in order to prevent racial profiling.

Activist Desmond Cole has been critical of the new law, saying it doesn't do enough to end carding. In particular, he said the legislation doesn't require police to delete any of the data they've collected from years of street checks.

Cole is urging people to email members of the Toronto police board, as well as Mayor John Tory and councillors Chin Lee and Shelley Carroll, and ask them to take action. He's also encouraging anyone who does to share a copy of their letter on social media, using the #destroythedata hashtag.

"There are literally millions of contact cards police have collected on innocent people in this city," Cole told Metro. "If you say we need to end carding, but allow police to have that data, you haven't really ended the practice. The negative effects of that data will continue."

He cited the case of Ayaan Farah, who lost her security clearance — and her job — at Pearson Airport after police used carding data to claim she was connected to a local gang.

Cole's also concerned police staff might be able to access carding records without authorization.

"It's begging for abuse to keep the data in police custody," Cole said, noting two former Toronto police civilian employees are facing charges for allegedly searching restricted databases.

Activist Desmond Cole
TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

IN BRIEF

GoodLife Fitness faces class action lawsuit
Corporate gym chain GoodLife Fitness has "systematically failed" to accurately compensate thousands of employees across Ontario for their hours of work and overtime, according to a new $60 million class-action lawsuit. The suit, filed by labour law firm Goldblatt Partners, makes numerous allegations against the fitness giant with 166 locations across the province. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

No end in sight for striking children's aid workers
Striking Peel Children's Aid Society workers are in their ninth week on the picket line with no resolution in sight after the agency rejected the union's call to send outstanding issues to binding arbitration. The union, which represents 435 members in Mississauga, Brampton and Caledon, requested binding arbitration on Monday. The workers walked out Sept. 18 over issues of personal safety and workload. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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RaceSim1 brings NASCAR to you

TECHNOLOGY

Players can choose from over 450 types of cars

Gilbert Ngabo
Metro | Toronto

Walking into the RaceSim1 arcade is like stepping onto a NASCAR track. The sights and sounds of professional racing are all there, from revving engines to slamming stick shifts.

All that's missing is the smell of burning rubber.

Featuring five custom-made car stations, each one aligned behind a 49-inch monitor complete with a subwoofer, the arcade — located in a basement near Bloor and Clinton streets — is the latest entrant in Toronto's burgeoning esports scene.

"I love cars, and I love to drive," says 36-year-old owner Maxime Jacques, as he showed off his racing skills Sunday. "I dream of owning a million-dollar car, but I can't afford it. So I race."

For $30 an hour, Jacques is offering Torontonians a virtual racing reality. Players can choose from over 450 types of cars — anything from a basic Honda Civic to a ridiculous Indy car that can clock 300 km/h.

The arcade has been open for two months and serves an average of 20 drivers a day, Jacques said. The next step is to start a league where players can race against one another on a regular basis.

While other esports, including StarCraft or League of Legends, have well established communities of players and spectators, simulated racing as an esport is still fairly nascent.

However, Jacques feels the games are about to go from zero to 60 very soon. In fact, he's already planning for an expansion.

1 Maxime Jacques shifts gears as he shows off his racing skills at RaceSim1, Toronto's newest arcade dedicated to realistic car racing games. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO
2 Ever dreamed about driving a C7.R Corvette, or a 1966 Chaparral 2E? RaceSim1 can make those dreams a virtual reality. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO
3 Walking south of Bloor on Clinton Street, you can't miss the RaceSim1 sign. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO
4 Players can throw away the controller and literally get behind the wheel. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO
5 With all the details of a car, from a gear shift and clutch pedals to the driving wheel and the car seat, the experience seems real until you realize you're driving on one of the arcade's 49-inch monitors. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO
6 The spacious and sleek basement features five racing stations and enough room for spectators to watch the race. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

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This is what Willcocks Street on University of Toronto's St. George campus looks like now. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

This is the vision for turning it into a pedestrian-first plaza. CONTRIBUTED/UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

Walking space develops

Luke Simcoe
Metro | Toronto

Pedestrians are poised to get a bit more right of way on the University of Toronto campus.

The school recently unveiled plans for a new pedestrian mall along Willcocks Street. The design, by DTAH Architects, includes a complete overhaul of the streetscape, new trees and green spaces, improved lighting and street furniture, and even a basketball court.

The city first closed Willcocks to vehicles in 2010, as part of a pilot project. The change was made permanent in 2012, but aside from a few barriers and planters, little has been done to distinguish the space.

That will change as the school begins to "reimagine" Willcocks Common. Even the stretch of the road west of Huron Street could eventually be closed to cars, extending the Common's pedestrian-only reach.

"It is precisely in this space's open, multi-functional possibilities where the potential lies to make the Common a meaningful, engaging place and an integral part of the campus experience," reads the school's brochure for the project.

At present, there is no timeline for when construction will be complete.

VANCOUVER

Vacant homes taxed

Vancouver has voted to implement a one per cent tax on empty homes in a bid to alleviate the city's rental housing market, which is suffering elevated prices similar to Toronto's.

The tax, which is the first of its kind in Canada, will apply to non-principal residences that are left empty for six months of the year or longer.

Home owners will be required to self-declare whether their property is vacant and could be subject to fines up to $10,000 for false reports.

Properties under renovation, owners who are in hospital and condos with strata rental restrictions will all be exempt from the tax.

Councillors also directed city staff to work with the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation and other organizations to collect data on possible impacts of the tax and report back next year.

Staff hope to have the levy in place for the 2017 year, with the first payments expected in 2018.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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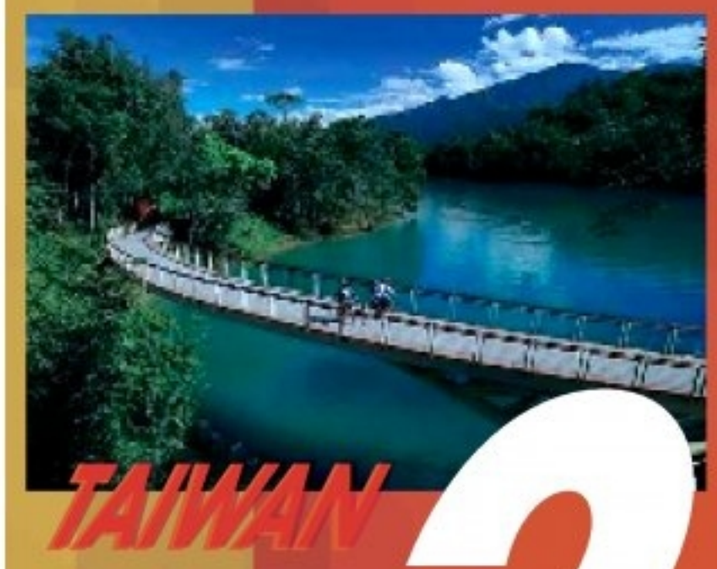

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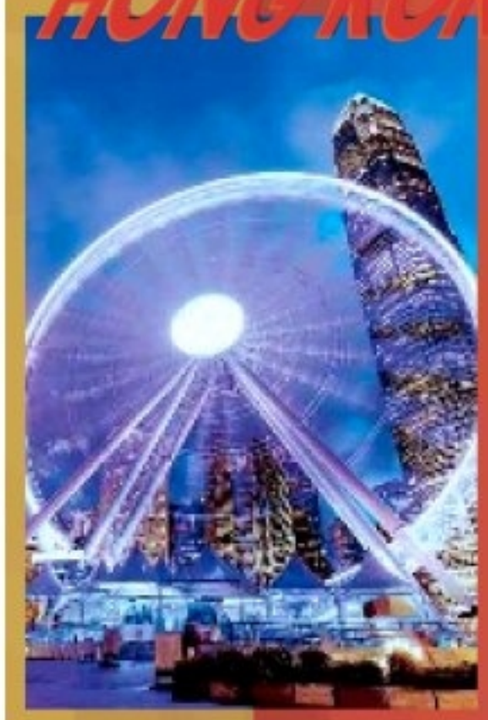

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Away bags feature built-in batteries and ports that let you charge on the go in the carry-on line. CONTRIBUTED

Rimow has recently introduced electronic tags. The optional e-ink display syncs with airline apps on your smartphone to allow you to check in your bag from home. CONTRIBUTED

An integrated scale in Raden's suitcase handle lets you know the weight of your bag and an app allows you to sync your suitcase to your smartphone so you can locate it anywhere within a 100-foot radius. CONTRIBUTED

Luggage gets smart

LUXURY SHOPPING

Electronics offer useful new features if you can afford them

Nichole Jankowski
For Metro
THE RETAIL INSIDER

If you were to spend a full day in the men's contemporary department at Holt Renfrew Yorkdale, like I do five days a week, you would hear a thunderous boom at least a few times.

It's the sound of a $1,295 polycarbonate Rimowa Bossa Nova Multiwheel suitcase hitting the floor and the hollow thud of its 70 litres of storage space. Or it might be a $1,450, 10.6-pound aluminum Topas Stealth cabin Multiwheel carry-on piece dropping like a domino from its display platform.

Ever since Holts started carrying Rimowa this year, the German luxury luggage brand has been flying off the shelves. The sales are just a sliver of the forecasted $77.5 million in luxury travel goods that are set to sell in Canada for 2016. Global sales of luxury travel goods is forecasted to reach $4.3 billion by year's end, according to market research group Euromonitor International.

With annual growth at 3.7 per cent, travel goods are outperforming other luxury categories like watches and handbags in year-over-year growth. Euromonitor projects sector sales will reach nearly $5 billion in the next four years.

Last month, luxury goods conglomerate LVMH bought an 80 per cent stake in Rimowa for a reported $640 million. And in August, Samsonite purchased American heritage brand Tumi for $1.8 billion in a bid to cement its position as the world's largest luggage maker.

But now there are some new kids on the block staking out their market share — all based around the idea of offering a top-quality product with innovative features at a fraction of the cost.

"Stitch for stitch our suitcase … is at the very minimum equal to, but in a lot of parts of it better than, those $800 to $1,000 suitcases," says Stephanie Korey, co-founder of upstart luggage label Away.

The brand — set to exceed $10 million U.S. in sales this year — was conceived after co-founder Jen Rubio broke her suitcase at the airport.

"She texted all of her most in-the-know friends for a recommendation on what to replace it with and everyone came up empty-handed," recalls Korey. "It seemed like there was nothing in between the affordable but unreliable options and cases sold at luxury price points."

$4.3 BILLION

Global sales of luxury goods projected for 2016, according to market research group Euromonitor.

Made with impact resistant and lightweight German polycarbonite, 360-degree Japanese spinner wheels and YKK zippers, Korey and Rubio have designed a suitcase that Vogue magazine has called "the perfect carry on" — that retails for $225 U.S. and ships to Canada.

Josh Udashkin, the Canadian founder and CEO of smart luggage company Raden, saw an opportunity to integrate tech features — like a find-my-suitcase app, a built-in battery and a digital scale in the bag's handle — which traditional luggage brands have been slow to experiment with (although Rimowa did introduce the option of electronic luggage tags earlier this year).

Set to surpass a $12 million U.S. sales goal in its first fiscal year, Raden, and other smart luggage companies like it, are proving there's lots of runway room for a little guy with big ambitions to take off.

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Visit jdpower.com. ***/* Freight & PDI ($1,700/ $1,650/ $1,600/ $1,700/ $1,695), registration, air levies, tire levies and OMVIC fees, insurance, licence, PPSA, dealer fees and applicable taxes not included in the Black Friday Event Cash Credit offers. Offers apply as indicated to 2016 (2017 Equinox) new or demonstrator models of the vehicle equipped as described. Offers apply to qualified retail customers in the Ontario Chevrolet Dealer Marketing Association area only (including Outaouais). Dealers are free to set individual prices. Quantities limited; dealer order or trade may be required. Limited time offers which may not be combined with other offers. GM Canada may modify, extend or terminate offers in whole or in part at any time without notice. Conditions and limitations apply. 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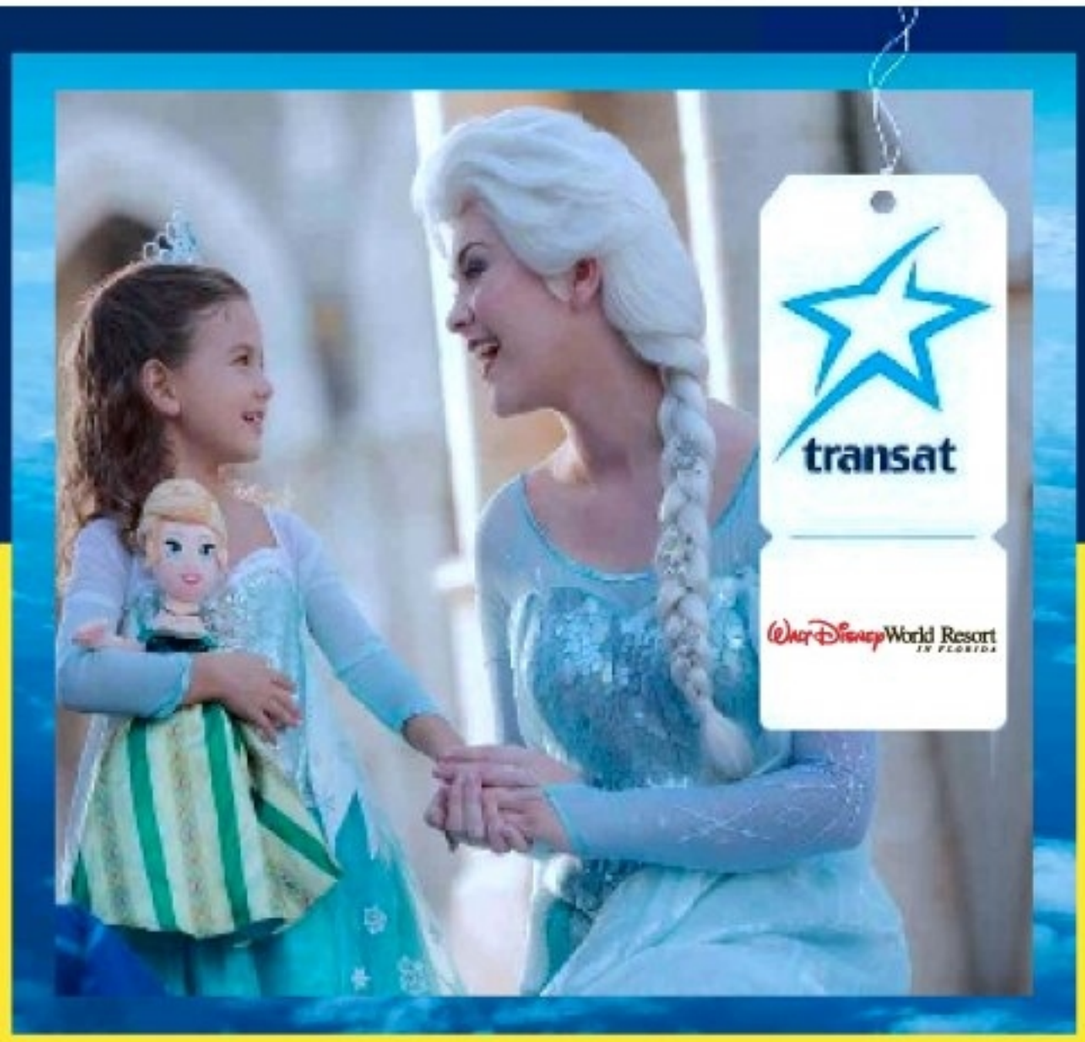

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Toronto Wildlife Centre has been taking care of a young beaver, estimated to be about seven months old, since it was discovered in a residential area, having just taken down a sapling.
COURTESY TORONTO WILDLIFE CENTRE

Wildlife centre needs your sticks

WILDLIFE CENTRE

Beaver found in residential area of city

Rebecca Chiu
Metro | Toronto

The Toronto Wildlife Centre has a few new branch-loving residents, and they need your trees.

The wildlife rehabilitation centre put out the call online Wednesday morning looking for arboreal donations to help a beaver and porcupines in its care.

The beaver was brought to the centre on Nov. 9 after it was discovered alone in a residential area of Toronto, adding to two porcupines already at the centre. A third porcupine joined the group on Monday, hence the increased need for wood.

"With three porcupines and the beaver, they're all branch eaters. That's a lot to be collecting every single day," said executive director Nathalie Karvonen.

While porcupines like wood to chew and climb on, beavers need a lot of live wood to eat, the centre wrote on Facebook, outlining beavers' preferences of aspen, ash, dogwood and water lilies, to name a few.

Specifically, the centre is looking for people who have pesticide-free wood, perhaps branches from an overgrown backyard tree.

Karvonen warned against collecting branches on roadways or those people place outside their homes for collection since there's no guarantee the wood has not been in contact with pesticides or insecticides.

Plus: "I wouldn't recommend people to go a public park and start ripping down trees," she said.

As for the beavers, feeding isn't the only challenge of taking care of the animals. It's also difficult to house them.

"They're all challenging little patients," said Karvonen. "They need to be in enclosures they can't eat ... or they'll eat their way out."

HOW TO HELP

Toronto Wildlife Centre is asking people who may have tree donations to call them at 416-631-0662 ext. 3207 or email donations@torontowildlifecentre.com

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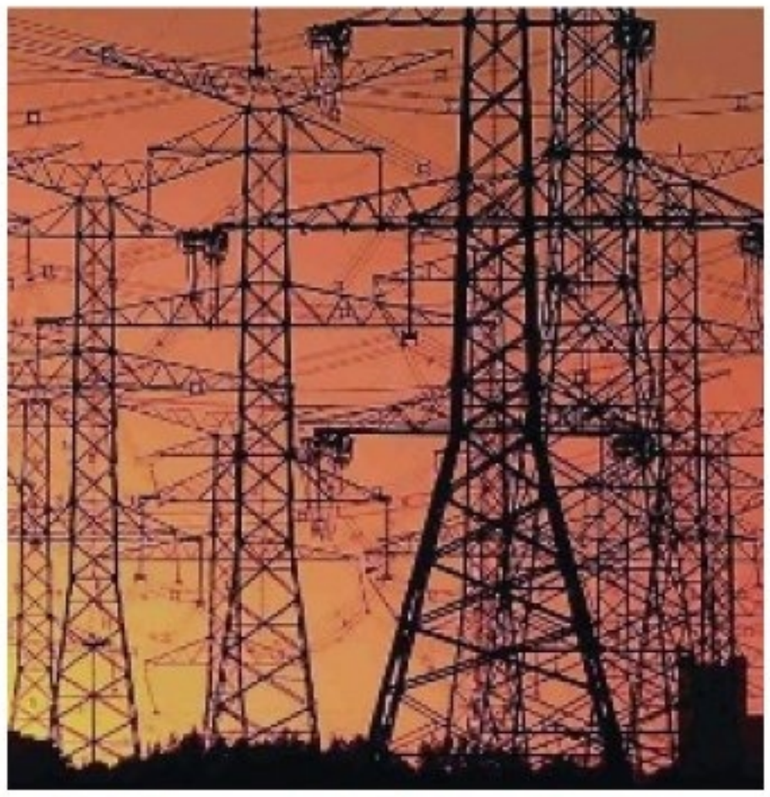
Hydro execs deny privatization bid

ENERGY

Documents show utility wants 'capital flexibility'



Toronto Hydro's focus on capital investment begs the question of privatization. STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE FILE

Toronto Hydro executives are meeting privately with city councillors to show them a "confidential" presentation suggesting the utility has a dire need for cash to spend on the electricity grid.

Toronto Hydro spokesman Brian Buchan, who has been giving the presentations along with executive vice-president Chris Tyrrell, said they are routine updates for representatives of the electrical utility's sole shareholder: the City of Toronto.

"Under no circumstance are we lobbying for privatization or lobbying of any kind. That is absolutely false ..." Buchan said in an emailed response to questions from the Star.

"Toronto Hydro is financially strong and well-run. Because Toronto's electricity system has such extensive reinvestment needs and because we are a city that is growing at a uniquely healthy pace, capital flexibility is a focus."

Independent energy analyst Tom Adams, shown a copy of the 19-page presentation obtained by the Star, said it does not provide a full picture of Toronto Hydro's financial picture. The focus on capital investment begs the question of privatization, he added.

"This is sophisticated work — every slide is torqued," Adams said in an interview. "The claim from (Mayor John) Tory and Hydro that they need private capital to fund the necessary refurbishment of the system is not correct."

In a September speech Tory pointed to blackouts and argued council must look at "unlocking" value in Hydro while maintaining majority ownership.

Hydro chief executive Anthony Haines recently told the Globe and Mail that access to private investment "gives us a clear line of availability to cash necessary to meet the challenges of the corporation."

The presentation says Hydro has a need for "capital rebalancing" to address "continued investment in aging infrastructure, support for unprecedented growth and demand" and "effects of government policies," including Hydro's annual dividend to the city budget that was almost $60 million last year.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Public Health's winning condom wrapper designs touch on civic pride. CONTRIBUTED

HEALTH

Condoms showcase the 6ix

When people pick up condoms from Toronto Public Health next year, they'll see colourful wrappers featuring a lumberjack, a TTC bus transfer and familiar subway tiles with the message "ride responsibly."

Toronto Public Health wrapped up their CondomTo contest on Tuesday, unveiling the four designs that will be featured on millions of condom wrappers starting in 2017.

The contest was launched earlier this year in the hopes of increasing community engagement while raising awareness about safe sex, particularly condom use, in an innovative way.

Competition was stiff, with unique submissions featuring the 6ix (the city's nickname bestowed by Drake), a raccoon and signs of the TTC. Toronto Public Health received 438 submissions that touched upon civic pride — a contest requirement — in a two week period.

"This year we invited Toronto's artistic community to submit condom (wrapper designs) that would make us laugh, make us cry, make us think," said Toronto councillor Joe Mihevc, chair of the Toronto Board of Health.

The 438 submissions were whittled down to 10 finalists before a group of judges picked an open-category winner, as well as a student winner.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

#WomenOnBoards

A Metro special focus

Gender parity 'good for business'

DIVERSITY

Female board members aren't so difficult to find: Expert

Ryan Tumilty
Metro | Ottawa

Private corporations that have achieved gender diversity say the change isn't just good for society, it's good for business.

Pamela Jeffery, founder of the Pamela Jeffery Group, which recruits women for seats on private sector boards, said companies find a whole new perspective they have been missing when they broaden their search.

"They are not part of the traditional network, so they are probably coming onto a board and don't know the others at the table," she said. "They come in and they ask the tough questions."

As Metro has reported this week, Canada's Crown corporations, whose board of directors are appointed by the federal cabinet, reveal that about 34 per cent of those seats are now occupied by women.

Jeffery said that's actually a much better representation than is typical on private sector boards.

She points to a survey last year from the Canadian Board Diversity Council that showed about 19.5 per cent of the seats on the boards of the FP 500 are held by women.

"That is a very strong showing and I think it's one that is very important," she said. "The private sector is looking to government to take a leadership role."

Jeffery said there is a wide array of women able to serve on boards when companies decide to make a deliberate effort to diversify.

"It's not a question of supply — it is a question of demand," she said.

"There are many women who have the skills, the experience, the credentials to serve on boards who are not currently serving on boards."

Gail St. Germain, head of human resources and an executive vice-president with HSBC Canada, said the company believes its gender-neutral board is a tremendous asset.

"We know that diversity in business makes good business," she said. "It's important to represent the communities in which we serve."

The company's current president and CEO, Sandra Stuart, was a board member in 2010. St. Germain said at that time the board was 20 per cent women, but it has changed dramatically over the years.

St. Germain said diverse board members bring different ideas to the table and that helps expand the conversation.

"The diversity of thought and the depth of conversation really takes an outcome to a much more positive and balanced approach," she said.

Jeffery said an organization that wants to make change, including a Crown corporation, has to be willing to look further afield for board members.

She said simply asking for recommendations from the existing board won't work.

"Most board members are male and since most of those board members do not have strong networks that include women it self perpetuates."

ABOUT THIS SERIES

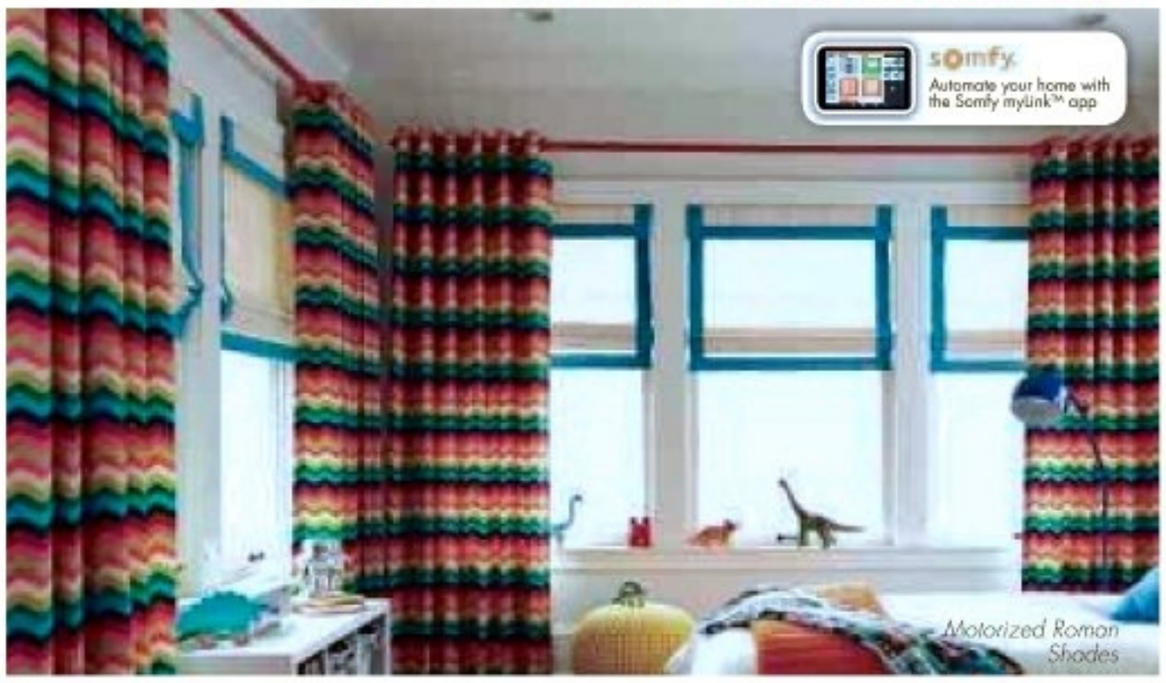
THIS WEEK Metro looked at the Crown corporations that the federal government oversees, which **our analysis shows are overwhelmingly male.**

Many of these Crown corporations have huge influence on the lives of Canadians, from the interest rates they pay banks, to mail delivery to airport security.

Toronto-based **Pamela Jeffery,** who specializes in finding qualified women for seats on private sector boards, says there are many women who have the credentials necessary to serve at the top levels of corporations. EDUARDO LIMA/METRO

WHAT YOU CAN DO

The federal cabinet appoints new directors to Crown corporation boards when positions open up. You can advocate for more diversity by contacting your MP and with the hashtag **#WomenOnBoards.**



Grégoire-Trudeau pushes gender equality in Cuba

EMPOWERMENT

PM's wife says strong men need to teach boys to respect women

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's mother Margaret charmed Cubans when she brought her infant son Michel there 40 years ago. It forged lasting family ties between Cuba and the Trudeau family.

A generation later, Trudeau's own wife followed Margaret's steps, but came without her kids, charmed with fluent Spanish and delivered a message of support for gender equality.

Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau said that in countries where the culture is one of "machismo," strong men need to stand up and teach boys to respect women.

She spoke to an audience of mostly women at San Geronimo University in old Havana, among them filmmakers, artists and small-business people, urging them to "speak up" and tell their stories.

Sophie Grégoire-Trudeau speaks at a panel discussion on gender equality at the University of San Geronimo in Havana on Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Though she speaks fluent Spanish, Grégoire-Trudeau switched to English, and spoke without notes as a translator tried to keep up.

"The hardest thing to change in a society is what is considered normal. Is it normal to work, to have babies, be in charge of the household, be caring for aging parents and family members or loved ones? Is it normal to have all those responsibilities on our shoulders? Is it normal to face the daily language of violence towards our bodies, our minds our hearts?" she asked.

"Our boys need to look up at older people around them, especially male figures, to be able to express their full potential and person but that is only possible if they are raised in a culture that celebrates men and women with the same equal rights freedoms and respects."

"In cultures where machismo is very present, we are reminded by amazing men" that many of them are wise, open and capable of loving and respecting women, she said.

"They should be encouraged at a very young age to develop these qualities and this will have an impact on society at large."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

DIPLOMACY

PM attempts to calm fears of U.S. election

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau told a group of Cuban students today that he won't change Canada's stance on Cuba, even though his views are at odds with the man set to lead Canada's biggest trading partner.

When asked about the U.S. embargo on Cuba, the election of Donald Trump and concerns about the future of Canada-Cuba relations, Trudeau tried to calm students in his audience.

The front row also held an unexpected guest: Cuban President Raul Castro.

"For me, election results in the United States won't change the strong relationship that is a friendship and a partnership between Canada and Cuba," Trudeau said.

Trudeau said Canada doesn't see a contradiction or issue with being a steadfast and unflinching friend to Cuba and being an ally of the United States. He said the foreign affairs stance is one way Canadians reassure themselves "that we are our own country, that we make our own choices."

"We disagree with the approach the United States has taken with Cuba. We think that our approach is much better — of partnership, of collaboration, of engagement," he said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Justin Trudeau and Raul Castro shake hands after an event at the University of Havana on Wednesday. SEAN KILPATRICK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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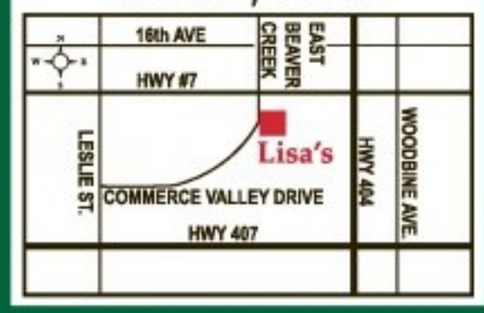

November 2016

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December 2016

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Obama makes plea on final official trip

POLITICS

President urges the world never to give in to isolationism

Standing in democracy's birthplace, President Barack Obama on Wednesday issued a parting plea to world leaders not to let the fear of globalization tugging at Europe and the U.S. pull them away from their core democratic values. He argued it wasn't too late for a course correction.

On his last foreign trip as president, Obama has repeatedly tried to draw lessons from Donald Trump's victory in the U.S. presidential election, hoping it can serve as wakeup call in the U.S. and abroad. Conceding that many feel left behind by globalization, Obama said there was an understandable impulse toward isolationism and that if people feel their futures are at risk, "they'll push back."

President Barack Obama walks from the Parthenon during a tour of the Acropolis on Wednesday in Athens. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

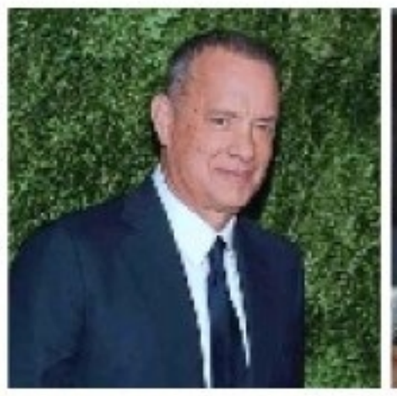
"People have to know that they're being heard," Obama said in a speech to the Greek people in Athens. But, he added, "We can't look backward for answers. We have to look forward."

While fewer people in the U.S. are looking to Obama for direction now that his successor has been chosen and his agenda largely rebuked, Obama has retained significant clout abroad. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HONOURS

Obama plans to honour 21 people with the nation's highest civilian honour, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, on Tuesday.

- Robert DeNiro
- Cicely Tyson
- Tom Hanks
- Robert Redford
- Kareem Abdul-Jabbar
- Michael Jordan
- Vin Scully
- Ellen DeGeneres
- Diana Ross
- Bruce Springsteen
- Bill and Melinda Gates
- Richard Garwin
- Frank Gehry
- Maya Lin
- Lorne Michaels
- Newt Minow
- Margaret H. Hamilton
- Eduardo Padron
- Elouise Cobell
- Grace Hopper



Left: Tom Hanks urged calm about a Trump presidency. **Right:** Midwestern State University students march in protest of Trump. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Donald Digest

A roundup of news about the president-elect

It's all smooth sailing
Trump and his team on Wednesday vigorously rejected charges of turmoil and infighting roiling efforts to set up his White House teams, saying the enormous endeavour was proceeding "so smoothly." AP

The gold standard
A backlash is brewing against Trump's daughter Ivanka because a $10,800 accessory her fashion company makes was turned into marketing fodder a day after she sported a version of the piece on 60 Minutes. TORSTAR

Hanks a lot, Tom
During an acceptance speech for a tribute to his career on Tuesday, Tom Hanks offered a simple post-election message: "We are going to be all right," he said. "America has been in worse places than we are at right now." TORSTAR

Students still riled up
College students at campuses around the U.S. rallied Wednesday, urging administrators to protect students and employees against immigration action under a Trump presidency. AP

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Dozens dead as bombs pound Aleppo

SYRIA

Strikes part of an offensive on rebels Russia had announced

Bombs rained down on rebel-held eastern Aleppo for a second straight day Wednesday, pounding a district that houses several medical facilities, including the central blood bank, and forcing Syrian staff and patients in the only remaining pediatric hospital to cower in a basement as buildings collapsed around them.

At least 54 people were killed in airstrikes and artillery shelling across northern Syria, part of a long-anticipated offensive against rebel-held areas announced by Russia, a key ally of Syrian President Bashar Assad. The bombardment hit in besieged neighbourhoods of Aleppo, as well as the surrounding countryside and the nearby rebel-held province of Idlib.

Russia said its raids were only targeting Idlib and the central province of Homs to root out militants of the Islamic State group and Syria's al-Qaida affiliate. But Syrian warplanes were pounding rebel-held districts of Aleppo, home to nearly 275,000 people.

Residents said the aerial campaign intensified Wednesday. Syria's Civil Defence, known as the White Helmets, recorded at least 150 raids, more than double the number of attacks on Aleppo on Tuesday.

Resident Modar Shekho said warplanes hadn't left the skies over his neighbourhood since 9 a.m. "The helicopters would leave and the jets would arrive," he said by telephone, adding that the helicopters were dropping seven or eight "barrel bombs" at a time "causing a lot of destruction." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A child injured by airstrikes in Aleppo, Syria, on Wednesday.
THIQA NEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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IN BRIEF

'Post-truth' named word of the year by Oxford Dictionary

Oxford dictionary editors have chosen their word of the year: "post-truth," a term sometimes used to describe the current political climate.

Oxford Dictionaries said Wednesday that use of the term rose 2,000 per cent between 2015 and 2016.

Runners-up for 2016 include "Brexiteer," "alt-right"; and "hygge," the Danish concept of domestic cosiness.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Deadly train crash may have been caused by sleep apnea

The engineer of a commuter train that slammed into a station going double the 10 m.p.h. speed limit, killing a woman, suffered from undiagnosed sleep apnea, his lawyer said Wednesday, and a U.S. official said investigators are looking at it as a potential cause. Engineer Thomas Gallagher, 48, was diagnosed with severe sleep apnea after the Sept. 29 crash in Hoboken, attorney Jack Arsenault said.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

SPACE

Astronaut, 56, to be the oldest woman in orbit

NASA astronaut Peggy Whitson is on the verge of becoming the oldest woman in space, adding to her long list of barrier-breaking records.

Whitson will be 56 when she rockets off the planet Thursday. She'll celebrate her 57th birthday in February on the International Space Station.

That's a far cry from John Glenn's space shuttle flight at age 77 and a few years shy of the male runners-up. But it's enough to beat Barbara Morgan's record as the world's oldest space-woman. Morgan waited so long to fulfil her role as Christa McAuliffe's teacher-in-space backup that she was 55 when she finally flew in 2007.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Peggy Whitson
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CHANTAL HÉBERT ON FOREIGN POLICY IN THE TRUMP ERA

The questions raised by the imminent changing of the guard at the White House go well beyond whether governments such as Trudeau's can find common ground with conservatives

One can run but not hide from the aftershocks of Donald Trump's presidential victory.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau is finding that out first hand this week as his first trip outside Canada since the American election turns into a damage-assessment mission.

It is a testimony to the magnitude of the shift in the tectonic plates brought about by the U.S. outcome that there is not an international forum and precious few of the world's capitals that is not scrambling to pick up the post-election pieces.

The questions raised by the imminent changing of the guard at the White House go well beyond the narrow scope of whether progressive governments such as Trudeau's can find productive common ground with a conservative president.

Cuba was the first stop on the PM's itinerary this week. Until the U.S. vote, the prime minister might have expected to find some lingering buzz from President Barack Obama's historical visit to the island last spring. It was part of a thaw in the relationship between Cuba and the U.S.

But in Havana, excitement has given way to trepidation. Uncertainty as to whether Trump will follow up on his predecessor's overtures has replaced momentum. On the campaign trail, the president-elect blasted Obama's visit to Cuba.

Later this week Trudeau will land in Peru for the annual Asia-Pacific Economic Policy (APEC) summit. The organization's 12 member countries recently negotiated the Trans-Pacific Partnership. But the American election has sapped the impetus for the ratification of the massive free-trade agreement. Last week, president Obama formally abandoned plans to submit the deal to Congress for ratification before the end of his term in January. Trump wants no part of the TPP.

The president-elect's shadow loomed large over this week's international climate-change summit (COP22) in Morocco. In theory, its participants had good reasons to celebrate. Propelled by international support, the global climate agreement struck in Paris last year has come into effect years earlier than expected.

The accord's signatories — including Canada — argue that the changing of the guard in the White House will not diminish the political will to act in concert on climate change. Time will tell whether they are whistling past the graveyard.

A pivotal part of the infrastructure of the Paris accord was an alliance between China and the U.S. They jointly agreed to a reduction in their carbon emissions. But Trump is not expected to hold the American side of the bargain.

On the heels of the U.S. election, Trudeau reaffirmed Canada's intention to lead a military deployment in Latvia as part of NATO's latest strategy to deter Russia. In Moscow, Trump's victory has been interpreted as an encouraging sign that could lead to NATO being forced to reconsider the deployment.

A bit more than a week after Trump's victory, it has already become conventional wisdom that his installation in the White House will at least complicate if not derail Trudeau's Liberal agenda. There is truth in that.

WHEN IT HITS YOU THAT EVERYTHING'S CHANGED Cuban President Raul Castro and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau listen to a lecture at the Havana University on Wednesday. GETTY IMAGES

But more than a few policy tenets close to the heart of past Conservative governments are equally on the line. Think of NAFTA — the brainchild of Brian Mulroney's Tory governments — but also of the moribund TPP. It was negotiated on the watch of the previous federal government. The final deal was arrived at in the heat of the last federal campaign.

Under Stephen Harper, Canada took credit for playing host to the secret meetings that led to the U.S.-Cuba rapprochement.

The Conservatives set the climate-change targets that Trudeau is seeking to achieve as part of the obligations Canada contracted under the Paris agreement.

One of the distinguishing features of Harper's foreign-policy doctrine was his strong stance against Vladimir Putin's military goals. Trudeau's Latvia deployment fits into that doctrine, as does the ratification by the Liberals of the Canada-Ukraine free trade agreement initially negotiated under the Conservatives.

And then, what would Harper — as a staunch champion of Israel — have made of the anti-Semitic undertones of some of the rhetoric of Trump's campaign?

On Wednesday, interim Conservative leader Rona Ambrose offered her caucus a few positive thoughts about Trump's victory. But when all is said and done, the president-elect poses a greater threat to Harper's trade- and foreign-policy legacy than Trudeau ever did.

It has already become conventional wisdom that Trump's win could derail Trudeau's Liberal agenda. There is truth in that.

Chantal Hébert is a national affairs writer. Her column appears in Metro on Thursdays.

VICKY MOCHAMA

When the right wing BLASTS COOL R&B, we owe it to them to listen

The most compelling event in politics right now isn't happening inside Trump Tower. It's the Conservative Party's leadership race.

Of course, the prime minister is still doing cool, young stuff like a fall reading-week trip to Cuba and begging for foreign-investment dollars. But, more rivetingly, the Opposition is figuring out who among a wide field of relative unknowns should lead them.

There are 12 candidates, i.e., enough players for a Canadian football team. The field is a who's-who of people one might remember and people who have Wikipedia pages. There are so many contenders that I came up with a mnemonic: BLASTS COOL R&B (Bernier, Lindsay, Alexander, Saxton, Trost, Scheer, Chong, Obhrai, O'Toole, Leitch, Raitt & Blaney).

Just because it's not about famous names that doesn't mean it should be underrated. This is the first chance to truly hear vision and ideas from Conservatives who were swept under by the decade-plus of Harper's leadership.

At last week's debate in Saskatoon, each candidate's 40-second speaking limit meant that they could only say a sentence or two on topics like immigration and free trade, so it often sounded more like a fast-paced brainstorming session than an argument. But there is genuine disagreement. At a Sunday event in Greely, Ont., Michael Chong was booed for suggesting that climate change is real, while Brad Trost was applauded after saying, "I don't believe climate change is a real threat."

Still, were it not for one element, the race would seem like a student-government election at a fancy prep school: well funded and appropriately aggressive, with all in agreement that the current headmaster is not for them. But the spectre of global populism hangs over the race.

The clear populist candidate is Kellie Leitch, a trained orthopaedic surgeon who rails against "elites." Her campaign blamed a possible break-in at her house on "the left." Most notoriously, she has proposed a Canadian-values test for immigrants and vowed to bring Donald Trump-style politics to Canada. Leitch lacks Trump's presentational verve, but she may have her finger on the pulse. Some Liberals, fearing the worst, are registering with the Conservative party to vote for anyone but her.

In 2004, following the Canadian Alliance's merger with the Progressive Conservatives, the new Conservative party had only three contenders for leader: future Instagram star Tony Clement, noted floor-crosser Belinda Stronach and Master of the Dark Arts himself, Stephen Harper.

Before you tweet me, I mean to compliment Steve for having united Canada's heterogeneous right-of-centre movement and convinced it to speak with a single voice (his). But the other voices didn't disappear. And now, out of Harper's shadow, 12 visions are coming from a party that used to provide only one.

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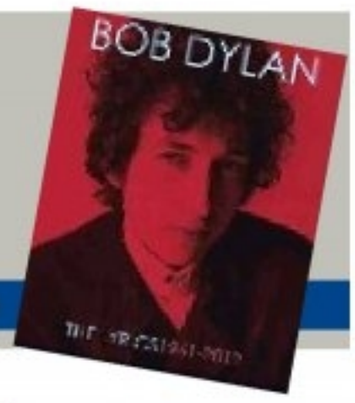


Lingerie that's not about sex

INTERVIEW

Reframing the conversation from a French point of view

Amber Shortt
For Metro Canada

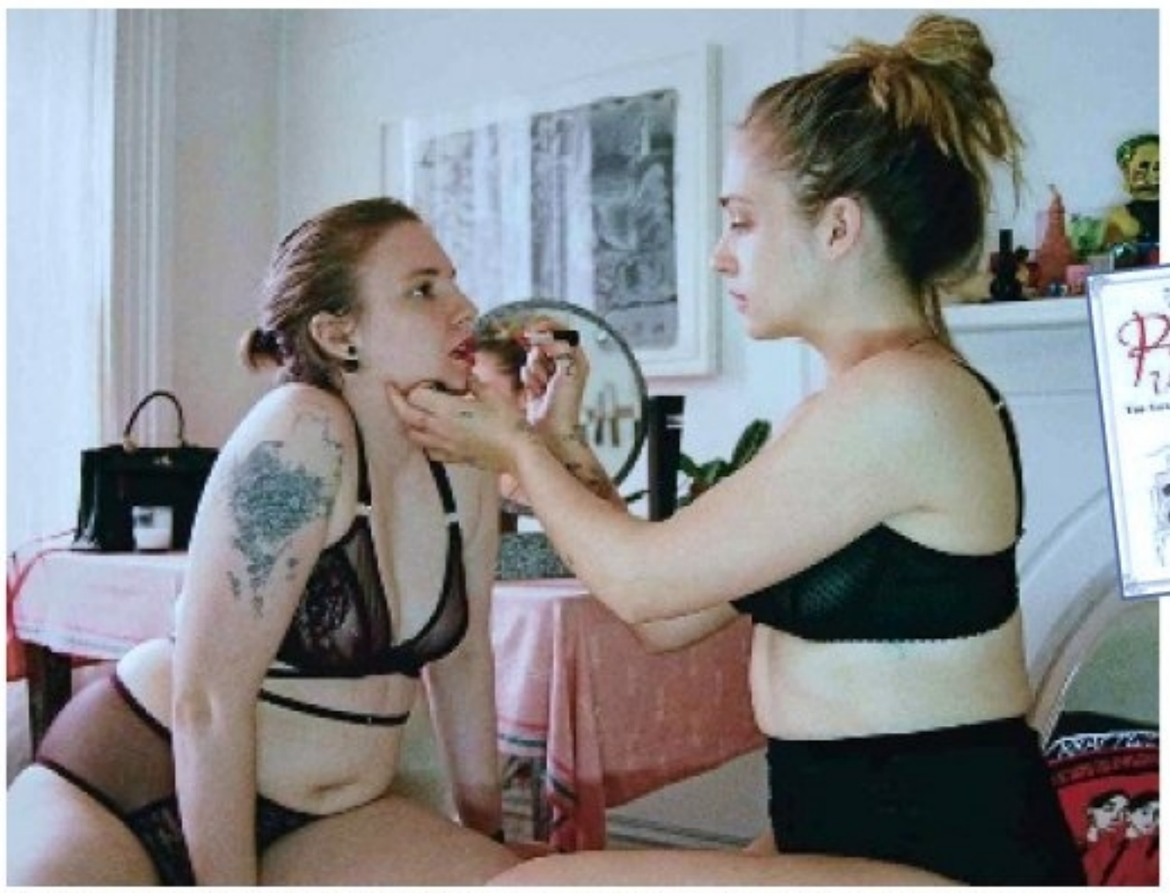
When Toronto's Kathryn Kemp-Griffin went to buy her first bra, the message from lingerie ads was clear: wear this, get laid.

"I remember growing up thinking it was all about purpose," says the author, who now also runs lingerie-themed tours of Paris. "What do I put on if I don't want to get laid? I don't really know what that means at 13."

She found in North America the conversation circled further around function: lift this, slim that, two-for-one deals, back fat. Comfort was an excuse for a lack of aesthetics, she says.

But after moving to Paris with her husband in 1990 — in a frayed pair of Jockeys — she started to believe lingerie could be something more.

"There's a difference in language when the French were talking about lingerie versus when North Americans were talking about lingerie," says Kemp-Griffin, who was in Toronto recently to promote her new book, Paris Undressed: The Secrets of French Lingerie.



Friends Lena Dunham and Jemima Kirke appeared in an untouched-up ad campaign for Lonely. In Paris Undressed, author Kathryn Kemp-Griffin says lingerie should be about activating the senses, not fixing perceived flaws. ZARA MIRKIN & HARRY WERE / COURTESY OF LONELY

In the book, Kemp-Griffin essentially offers a mindfulness guide to wearing lingerie the French way. She tells readers how to take a Marie Kondo-like approach to their underwear drawer (though Step 1 is to call it lingerie, not underwear). Toss wince-inducing pieces, she instructs. Then, buy a flower in your favourite colour, and a bra to match. "Notice that there are no flowers in beige!" she writes.

Throughout the book, she explains the history of lingerie — highlighting the lost one-on-one conversations with seamstresses to mass marketing and standardized sizing — and asks readers to more closely consider fabrics, such as the feel of silk and the detailed construction of lace.

The idea is lingerie should be about activating the senses, not fixing perceived flaws, she says.

"When you watch all the designers ... they're always slipping their hands underneath. That's where you see the opacity, that's where you see the light, that's where you see the transparency, that's where you see how the fabric plays with the skin, and you see the skin as the composition," says Kemp-Griffin. "By the time the product gets made and marketing gets slammed on, all the different slogans, all the rest, they've lost the dream, the textures."

And Kemp-Griffin knows about the importance of the dream. She moved to Paris at the flip of a coin (the alternative was San Francisco) and says there's something about being in a new place, and seeing the juxtaposition to home, that can help one find a new perspective.

But no matter where we are, it's hard to leave long-built anxieties behind, she says.

"We can not get away from our own individual upbringing, our religion, what mom said, what our sister said, what a good boyfriend said, what a rotten boyfriend said," she says. "It all gets wrapped into this poor little bra."

She sees it in the women who come on her lingerie tours: At Le Bon Marche department store, when the women are trying on lingerie, she says she often has to tell them to turn around and face the mirror instead of facing her, waiting for her opinion.

"Sexy, seduction, sexuality, sensuality: there's all these words we sort of know the dictionary definition of, but nobody ever asked what they mean to us."

And though those words come up plenty in the book, with bonus erotica recommendations and instructions for making your own tassels, one thing is noticeably absent: a sexual partner.

"I wrote (the book) for women, I wrote it for any women who have had any inkling that there's more to it than that," says Kemp-Griffin.

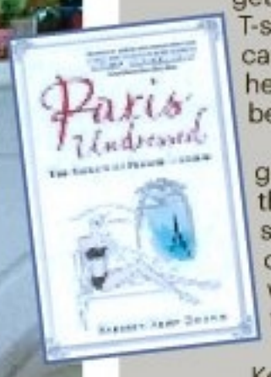
And in a year that saw women embracing a bra-free movement, plus-size model Ashley Graham walking the runway in her own lingerie collection, and Lena Dunham being featured in an untouched-up Lonely Label ad campaign, it seems women in North America are ready to reframe the conversation around lingerie as well.

GARTER BELTS

Ideal fit for wintertime

Kathryn Kemp-Griffin may be able to convince the North American woman to get rid of beige T-shirt bras, but can she convince her to try a garter belt?

"I think I can get her to try them on," she says, noting cold Canadian winters may be the ideal climate.



Kemp-Griffin, who recommends donning the more secure six-strap, rather that the pin-up-y four, says they can be handy under a pair of jeans when you're also bundled in a parka.

"It's nice not to have all those different layers above," she says.

AMBER SHORTT/FOR METRO

Fed up with sharp brows, contouring

Sali Hughes is the author of Pretty Iconic, a book about beauty products that changed lives. BERNARD WEIL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

INTERVIEW

Products that have changed beauty game

Sali Hughes knows there is more to beauty than a million Instagrammers trying to look like Kim Kardashian.

As the Guardian newspaper's beauty columnist and author of the website salihughesbeauty.com, Hughes, 41, is known for her discerning taste, down-to-earth approach to beauty and for her unfiltered straight-talk.

Here, the U.K.-based author chats about her new book, Pretty Iconic, ($34.99, Fourth Estate).

How did you decide what went in the book?
A product either had to have changed the beauty industry, or changed women's lives. Or changed my life, personally.

What makes a product iconic?
If you look at something like Chanel No 5, even people who have no interest in beauty still know that that is Chanel No. 5. Other things are iconic because they absolutely changed the course of beauty.

Some people see beauty products as frivolous. Why does a book like this matter?
Beauty products are the tools that help us project what we want to the world. That's a really intimate and powerful thing.

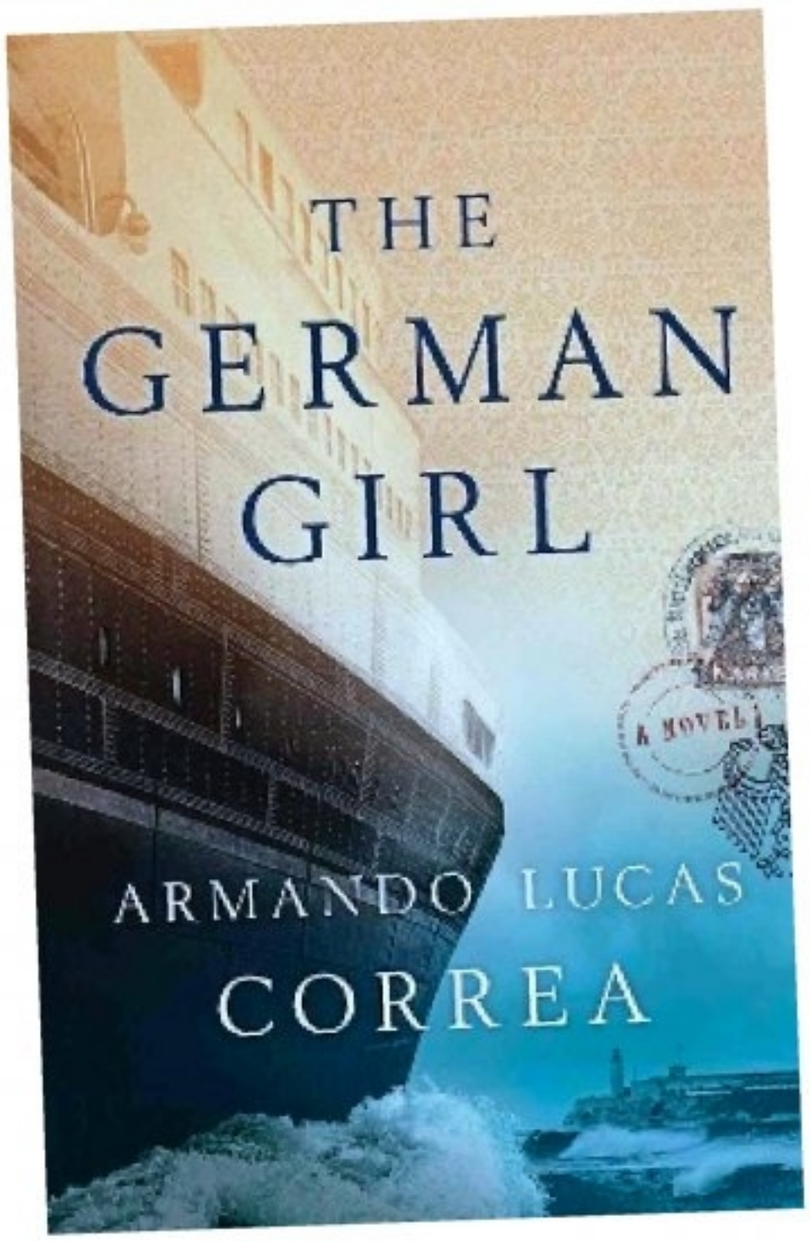
What's an overrated trend you're seeing right now?
I could live without seeing more contouring. I feel a little bit sad that young women feel they have to change the shape of their heads. It's too much. I would like people to embrace their differences instead of all trying to look like Kim Kardashian. That's like saying only one kind of flower is beautiful. All of Instagram can't be that sharp brow and contouring. It's boring. Also, it looks like s–t close up.

Say there's a young woman looking to invest in makeup products, where would you recommend she start?
If you are on a budget ... spend on foundation and perfume.

When did you figure out what products worked for you?
I was born with a skin condition called Ichthyosis and it makes your skin dry and scaly. I was really bullied at school. I became obsessed with figuring out ways I could make it better. The dermatologist would prescribe this really thick medicinal cream. I would mix salt in with creams and make scrubs. The dermatologists discharged me at 11 years old because they couldn't believe the improvement.

Did that skin condition influence where you are today?
It changed my life. My mum left when I was a baby so ... I was in a completely male household. Probably I would have always craved the feminine stuff — I would have always loved makeup — but I think the Ichthyosis made my obsession a 360 degree one.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE



Tragedy through a child

HISTORICAL NOVEL

1930s story compares to today's global refugee crises

Sue Carter
For Metro Canada

Armando Lucas Correa was only about 10 years old when his grandmother first told him about the St. Louis, a transatlantic luxury liner that, in May 1939, carried 937 passengers, mostly Jewish refugees, to safety in Havana.

Correa's grandmother — the child of Spanish immigrants — was pregnant with his mother at the time, when the Cuban government, which had guaranteed a safe home to the travellers, broke its promise and only allowed 28 refugees to remain on the island, despite the fact that each had paid a $150 fee to disembark.

The ship captain desperately tried to find a new port to land, but both Canada and the U.S. turned the group away, and hundreds were ultimately forced to return to Germany to their ultimate deaths.

"I think it hit her very hard when the Cuban government denied them entrance," says Correa, who is the New York–based editor of People en Español. "She would say that Cuba would pay for the next 100 years for what they did to the refugees."

The story continued to haunt Correa as well, and served as inspiration for his debut historical novel, The German Girl, about a family separated by the event and its lingering impact on future generations.

"When I was writing the book I was thinking about myself, the father of three children," he says. "If I was in the same situation, I wouldn't know what to do or how to survive."

The German Girl is told from the perspective of Hannah Rosenthal, an energetic, curious 11-year-old who flees her home in Berlin, accompanied by her parents and her best friend, Leo, and his family. It's six months after Kristallnacht, or the "night of falling glass," when violent riots instigated by the Nazis broke out in the city, and many Jewish businesses and synagogues were burned down.

The story spans 70 years to when Hannah meets her great-niece, Anna Rosen, whose father disappeared on 9/11.

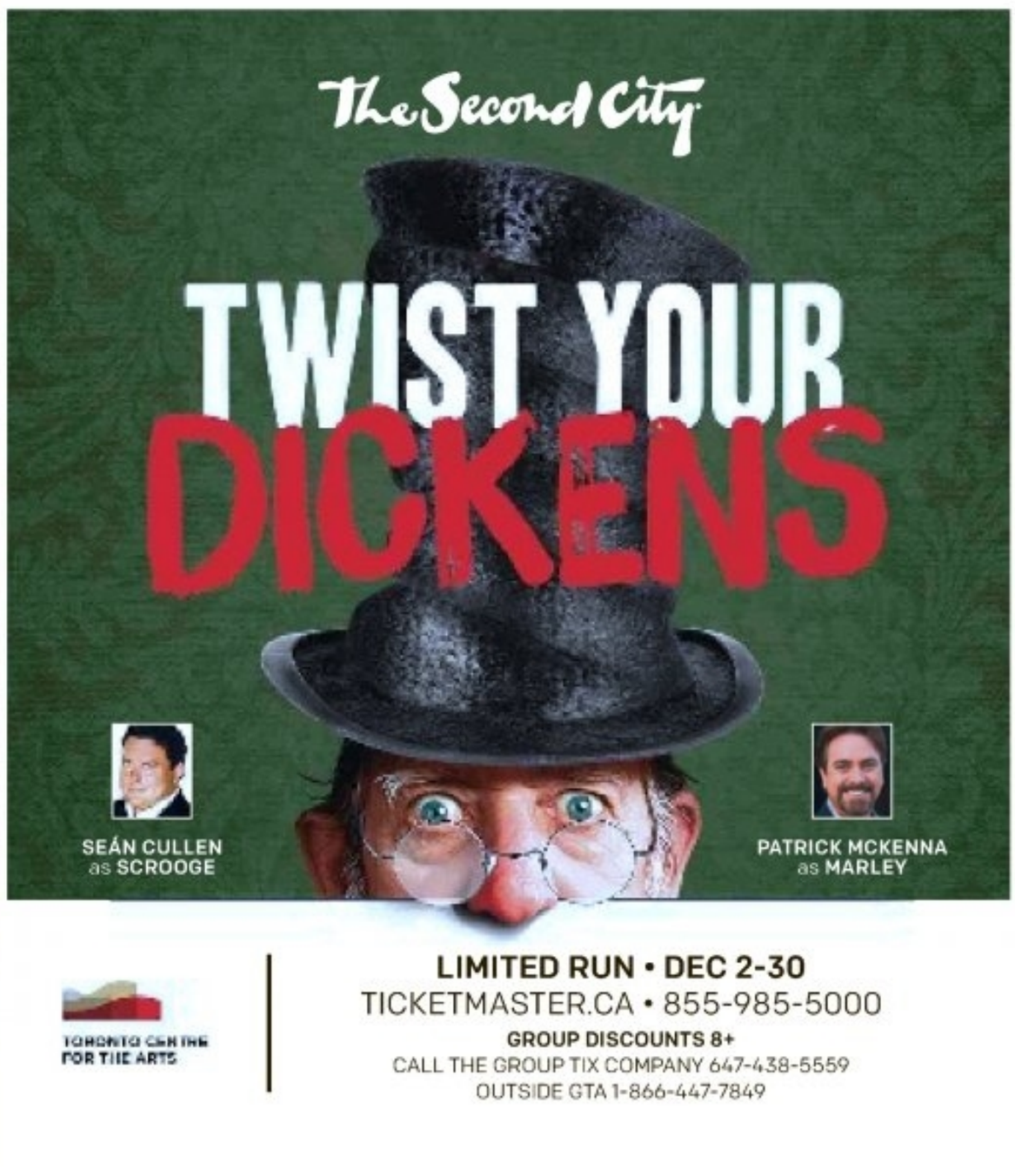
Hannah's voice came to Correa via his daughter Emma, who is the same age as his young protagonist. He hopes the authenticity will connect with empathetic readers. "This is a tragedy; 937 refugees were denied entrance," he says. "But I wanted to talk about Hannah Rosenthal. I wanted to get in her head. She is a human being; I didn't want to talk about the numbers."

Correa also observed that the story has a disturbing similarity to reactions and responses to current refugee crises, such as the millions of displaced Syrians seeking asylum around the world. "The tragedy of the St. Louis, you can see it today," he says. "The reason is that humans — as part of our DNA — we reject and we're afraid of 'the other.' People with another skin colour; people who have another god, or have other beliefs. We have to fight against that."

Correa included the ship's manifesto at the back of The German Girl, documenting the 937 passenger names. One of those on the list is Ana María Gordon, a Toronto-based 81-year-old survivor of the St. Louis, who shared her personal memories and thoughts with Correa. "Ana María is a strong woman," he says. "She said, 'We can forgive but never forget.' This is the main lesson."

> **Humans — as part of our DNA — we reject and we're afraid of 'the other.' People with another skin colour; people who have another god, or have other beliefs.**
>
> Author Armando Lucas Correa

Sue Carter is the editor at Quill & Quire magazine.



Can't fall asleep? Time to get Napflix

STREAMING

From sheep to curling, film fare to relax your brain

Love TV? Have trouble sleeping?

Perhaps you should check out Napflix.com, a collection of intentionally soothing/boring films and videos culled from YouTube.

The free service is the work of two advertising workers from Spain, the home of the siesta.

Napflix describes itself on its site as "a video platform where you can find the most silent and sleepy content selection to relax your brain and easily fall asleep."

The zzz-inducing fare includes chickens on a rotisserie at Swiss Chalet, sheep (circa 1954), rain on a window, candles burning and real-time chess.

For Canadian content, there's men's curling, although that has been blocked out for Canada. Surprisingly, there are no debates on the future of the Canadian Senate.

Some of the Napflix offerings are clearly parodies, like one on forgotten stamps.

Others are unintentionally pulse stopping, like a BBC documentary on the life of pandas or another BBC effort on Einstein for the masses.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Napflix describes itself as 'a video platform where you can find the most silent and sleepy content selection.' SCREENSHOT

CONTROVERSY

Atwood, Boyden face backlash over letter to UBC

A rift in Canada's literary community is forming after dozens of prominent authors signed an open letter that called for an independent investigation into the University of British Columbia's decision to fire Steven Galloway.

An online backlash has erupted over the letter, with both those who filed complaints against Galloway and outside observers expressing concerns that those who signed the letter are rallying around one of their own while silencing those who spoke out against him.

Margaret Atwood is among several authors who signed the letter and faced a barrage of criticism from young female writers on Twitter.

But Atwood defended her decision and argued the letter was about the secretive UBC process.

Life of Pi author Yann Martel, who signed the letter written by Joseph Boyden, says in an email he would have worded the letter differently, but the goal was to express concern that the process followed by UBC did not appear to be fair to either Galloway or the complainants.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Joseph Boyden TORSTAR

GOSSIP IN BRIEF

Carrie Fisher says she had an affair with Star Wars co-star Harrison Ford

Carrie Fisher has revealed that Princess Leia's romance with Han Solo in Star Wars extended off-screen, as well.

Fisher tells People magazine that she enjoyed an "intense" affair with co-star Harrison Ford during the filming of the 1977 blockbuster.

Fisher was 19 and Ford was 33 and married at the time of what she says was a three-month affair. The actress tells People, "It was Han and Leia during the week, and Carrie and Harrison during the weekend." She says the romance ended when shooting on the film did.

Fisher writes about the fling in her new book "The Princess Diarist," which recounts her experiences on the "Star Wars" set. She says that she gave Ford a heads-up about the book and he received a draft.

A representative for Ford didn't immediately respond to a request for comment.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Love and learning

Food workshops or couples culinary courses are just one romantic way to reconnect with your sweetheart. ISTOCK

RELATIONSHIP GOALS

Make your next date night an experience with classes for couples

Rhonda Riche

As the days grow shorter and colder, it's easy to skip date night and opt for a night of Netflix with your loved one. As cozy as it sounds, hibernating for the winter isn't always good for a relationship. In a 2009 study published in Psychological Science, researchers found couples that reported boredom during their seventh year of marriage were significantly less satisfied with their relationships nine years later

And the best way to beat boredom is getting out of the house to bond by trying new things together. In Toronto, we are fortunate to have workshops and classes where couples can connect by learning new skills and subjects. From cooking classes to lively lectures, here are five fun and educational date night ideas.

Main course

Sharing a meal is always an intimate experience because good food creates memories, makes the heart grow fonder and leads to conversations where you are not distracted by technology, kids or other commitments.

Taking a cooking class as a couple is a wonderful way heighten all of those experiences. There are schools and studios across the GTA offering foodies and culinary klutzes alike the opportunity to learn new skills while bonding over tasty treats. The West End Food Co-op, for example, offers weekly workshops where partners can participate in everything from preparing your own kimchi and sauerkraut to preserving pears.

The Chef Upstairs — a cooking studio in the Davisville neighbourhood — offers couples specific culinary courses. Held on Fridays, each class is limited to seven couples so that everyone gets an opportunity to interact with the chef while preparing (and eating) a full course dinner.

Love craft

If design is a shared passion, you and your partner will want to visit the One of a Kind Christmas Show & Sale starting Nov. 24. Not only will you get the chance to check out amazing handmade gifts, art and other objects, your admission also gives you the opportunity to create your own tokens of affection under the tutelage of local makers in a series of free, DIY workshops.

This year, OOAK is offering four free workshops: Bullet Journaling with Margi Laurin where you can create a personalized day planner to help arrange your romantic rendezvous; Creating Mandala Holiday Cards with Christine Pensa of Art That Moves (also good for crafting love letters); Decorating Holiday Cookies with Jackie Long of Teeny Tiny Bakery (again, food equals love); and Stencilling a Holiday Tote with Arounna Khounnoraj of Bookhou (if your relationship has to come with baggage, it might as well be good memories). These OOAK workshops are limited to 25 students, so it's best to sign up in advance online at oneofakindshow.com.

Dance dance dance

Dancing days are here again. TV shows like Dancing With the Stars and viral videos showcasing couples with creatively choreographed wedding moves have fuelled a renewed interest in fancy footwork. From twerking to tango, you and your partner can sign up for classes in just about every genre. At Lula Lounge on Dundas West, Dailyn Martinez teaches a drop-in Cuban-style salsa session for beginners every Saturday at 3:30 p.m. It's a fun way for couples to learn how to loosen up and explore rhythm and movement. If you and your partner are looking to make a longer commitment, City Dance Corps offers courses in the more complicated but utterly elegant Argentine Tango.

Language of love

In every relationship, sometimes it feels like we know our partner so well that we run out out of things to talk about. Lovers who are looking for ways to keep the conversation fresh should consider signing up for a lecture. Listening to someone else speak not only introduces you to new ideas and perspectives, talking about those subjects afterward improves communication by opening up dialogue. For partners who want to get on the same page, the Toronto Library offers a series of lectures and readings at all branches. Upcoming at the Toronto Reference Library, acclaimed author Zadie Smith is coming to town to read from her new novel Swing Time. Free tickets are available on Nov. 15.

Express yourself

One of the most romantic love scenes in movie history is the moment in Ghost where Demi Moore and Patrick Swayze throw some pottery to the sounds of Unchained Melody. While the teachers may not let you reenact that exact scene in class, the Gardiner Museum offers classes and workshops that can help you and your sweetheart explore the potential of working with clay. At the Gardiner, professional ceramic artists guide students of various skill levels and provide advice on the ways to make your vision come alive. Couples can then combine their newfound creative talents to make something meaningful as a team.

THIS SPECIAL REPORT WAS CREATED BY CONTENT SOLUTIONS, INDEPENDENT OF METRO EDITORIAL.

metro HOME
Your essential daily news

Cindy Crawford is selling her Malibu home for $60 million

Technology to play bigger role

REAL ESTATE

Virtual tours reduce need for physical showrooms

Duncan McAllister
For Metro Canada

The Urban Land Institute has just released their annual Emerging Trends in Real Estate report, chock full of fascinating data, findings and commentary about both the Canadian and U.S. markets.

Two observations from the report will certainly ring true for Torontonians: affordability will continue to decline, and prospective purchasers priced out of the housing market may be renting for the long term.

The highly-regarded report is produced each year by an army of esteemed analysts from the ULI and PWC.

This year, they anticipate continuing growth for Canadian cities, and the proliferation of master-planned communities.

"Canada's urban populations are set to continue to grow — and their needs are evolving. Because of this, mixed-use projects combining residential, retail, and commercial components continue to thrive."

The authors of the study also suggest that disruptive technologies will play an even greater role in the real estate industry well into the 21st century. From 3-D computer conceptualizations in the planning stages, to offering virtual tours, thereby reducing the need for physical showrooms, adopters of these new technologies will no doubt gain a competitive advantage.

Augmented Reality, for example, has some industry watchers imagining a scenario where prospective clients chase avatar realtors through condo sales centres, à la Pokémon Go.

The ULI report says that the popular internet game has demonstrated that AR can motivate people "to actually get out and visit locations, even properties they had not planned in advance to visit."

The Urban Land institute Emerging Trends in Real Estate report suggest that emerging technologies, such as Augmented Reality, will reduce the need for showrooms, giving companies a competitive advantage. ISTOCK

> **There are a lot of factors that could easily be at play that might dampen the escalation in housing prices.**
> Richard Joy, ULI Executive Director

The authors express grave concern regarding the turmoil wrought by the global financial crisis that has "violently upended financial markets around the world and hammered real estate markets in the United States."

With recent world events, tectonic geopolitical shifts and uncertainty in global markets, one wonders if condos will continue to be a robust investment opportunity in the GTA.

Although not one of the authors of the report, ULI executive director Richard Joy speculates that from an investment perspective, the Toronto market may not continue to produce the kinds of yields that we've come to expect over the past few decades.

"There are a lot of factors that could easily be at play that might dampen the escalation in housing prices," says Joy.

"Government policies might try to discourage that in the future, fearing that the issues of housing affordability, for those who are looking at housing from a shelter perspective, are being compromised."

LAND-USE PLANNING

Award winning developments turn to OMB for approval

Bryan Tuckey
For Metro Canada

The Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) is a needed third-party body that provides a public forum for appeals on local land-use planning matters.

In our current planning system, an appeal to an independent non-political decision maker is essential to ensure that municipalities, communities, ratepayer groups and landowners have the opportunity to present and test the merits of an application against sound planning objectives. This is what the OMB is all about.

It's a un-biased third-party administrative tribunal responsible for handling appeals. For example, a homeowner that wants to make an addition to his home but is denied by his local municipality has the option to appeal the decision at the OMB.

The Board makes decisions in the interest of the public based on sound planning principles, away from local political pressures. Decisions made by the OMB offer a necessary balance to pressures that may get in the way when local interests are necessarily in keeping with the larger public interest.

Development projects help communities evolve and thrive but they are often face local opposition because residents don't want their neighbourhoods to change. The OMB provides a public forum where the review of applications can be dealt with based on sound planning standards and the principles of fairness and transparency.

DISTILLERY DISTRICT
Toronto's Distillery District would not have gone forward without the help of the Ontario Municipal Board.

The Board doesn't get enough credit for the key role it plays in the development approval process. Many of its decisions have resulted in award-winning and much loved projects across the city.

One such example is the Toronto's Distillery District which would not have happened without the OMB. The condominium project that financially supported the revitalization and renewal of the district only moved forward due to a decision by the OMB.

While the OMB is often criticized for siding with developers, independent research by a leading University of Toronto expert on public policy found that it most often favours the expert testimony of municipal planners and that there are many examples of projects that it did not approved.

The province recently launched a review of the OMB, how it operates and its role in the land-use planning system.

While we believe that we need a body like the OMB, there is also room for improving it. For instance, the OMB could provide planning resources to ratepayer groups to facilitate mediation and settlement. Hiring and training more experienced mediators is another example that would help improve efficiencies and expertise.

It's important that we all work together to help make the OMB more efficient and more accessible to everyone.

BRYAN TUCKEY IS PRESIDENT AND CEO OF THE BUILDING INDUSTRY AND LAND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION AND A LAND-USE PLANNER WHO HAS WORKED FOR MUNICIPAL, REGIONAL AND PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS. FOLLOW HIM ON TWITTER @BILDGTA, FACEBOOK.COM/BILDGTA, AND BILDBLOGS.CA.

MEET THE CONDO

Up-and-coming east end condos

Project overview

This first phase of Evo Condos and Towns will be a collection of 116 urban townhomes, part of a new, mixed-use development featuring residential and commercial space in an up-and-coming area of Toronto's east end.

Building amenities

Each townhome features open-concept living with elegantly designed bedroom suites and modern finishes, with a choice of patio, glass balcony or private rooftop terraces. The units also include underground parking.

Location and transit

Located in the established Wexford-Maryvale neighbourhood, it's minutes to the Lawrence LRT station and the Scarborough GO rail platform. Drivers will have easy access to Highway 401 and the Don Valley Parkway.

In the area

With a walk score of 79, Evo is home to many area amenities including libraries, schools, and community centres, as well as great shopping and dining nearby. It's an eight-minute drive to the Scarborough Town Centre.

+ EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW

What: Evo Condos and Towns
Builder: Lalu Canada
Architect: Kohn Partnership Architects Inc. and Terraplan Landscape Architects Interiors, esQuape Interior Design Inc.
Location: 2180 Lawrence Ave. E., at Birchmount
Building: 116 stacked urban townhomes
Sizes: From 483 to 1,155 sq. ft.
Pricing: $200,000 to low $500,000s
Suites: One bedroom, two bedroom, three bedroom
Status: Pre-construction
Sales centre: Coming soon
Phone: 416-792-2600
Website: evocondos.com

ADVICE

Battling a hefty bill to remove asbestos can be challenging

Jeffrey Cowan
For Metro Canada

After purchasing a resale home, a homeowner found asbestos insulation. Jeffrey Cowan weighs in on the issue. ISTOCK

Q. We recently purchased a resale home and aside from a bunch of problems that our home inspector found that lead to an abatement of the purchase price, we unfortunately discovered asbestos insulation throughout the house after we bought.

We brought in an asbestos specialist and they determined the house would require substantial remediation. The final bill for all the fixes was approximately $20,000.

What can we do?

A: You have a cause of action against the former owners but the battle ahead is a tough one. With problems such as this that are hidden or 'latent' defects, you have to prove that the former owner knew that the house was insulated with asbestos and therefore knowlingly sold it to you without revealing the problem.

Because insulation is hidden in walls, it is often something that owners have no idea exist.

The proof is in the pudding. Good luck figuring out from an evidence perspective how you can prove your case. Otherwise, you may be left paying the invoice for the asbestos remediation.

REAL ESTATE

What's hot on the market

DUNCAN MCALLISTER

1 GRAND OPENING

Yorkville: AYC Condos is launching their signature townhomes this weekend. Prospective purchasers can preview the homes at an exclusive event on Nov. 19. Check it out at 287 Davenport Rd., Unit 5. Contact: 416-519-4349, ayccondos.com/register

2 OPEN HOUSE

Little Portugal: Here's a large, two-storey, two-bedroom townhome in Roncesvalles Village, west of the downtown. Head over to 133 Lansdowne Ave., on Nov. 19 and 20, from 2 to 4 p.m. Contact: Tracey Logan, RE/Max West Realty Inc., Brokerage, 416-769-1616

3 NOW REGISTERING

Bloordale Village: Museum FLTS. condos are coming soon to 158 Sterling Rd., in Toronto's Lower Junction Triangle. Register online for more information. Contact: admin@castlepointnuma.com, www.lowerjct.com/register

DUNCAN MCALLISTER/FOR METRO

After the tree fell, we got to work

RENOVATIONS

Accident created an opportunity to redecorate

Debra Norton
For Torstar News Services

THE ROOM BEFORE THE TREE FELL ON OUR HOUSE

THE ROOM AFTER WE RENOVATED

A tree fell on my house!

Thankfully, we had just arrived in P.E.I. for our annual holiday a few days earlier, so we weren't inside at the time. My son, Julian, was fast asleep, oblivious to the news that a massive old oak tree had just crashed through his bedroom ceiling and onto the bed on which he was sleeping just a few days earlier back home in Toronto.

I had just sat down at the kitchen table with a fresh cup of coffee, still relishing in that relaxed sleepy haze that you wake up with at a cottage, pondering which beach to visit. Then my cellphone rang. It was my brother, Jim. I don't quite remember his exact words that morning when he called to tell us a tree had fallen on our house, through the roof, crashing through my son's bedroom ceiling.

Managing the aftermath of a small disaster like this from 1,700 km away was unnerving. We were very lucky to have family and generous neighbours ready to step in and deal with the details for us, insisting that we stay put and enjoy our vacation. The next two weeks were spent taking the kids to the beach, eating lobster and sending the occasional panicked text to Jim or our neighbour Ana to make sure the patched roof was still secure after another crazy, heat-induced rainstorm.

We thought that when we returned home the damage could be fixed within a month. But due to a combination of structural damage, bureaucracy and dealing with some unreliable tradespeople, the drama continued for nearly eight months. For five them, Julian, who was then 12, slept on an inflatable mattress next to ours. His room — all 70 square feet of it — had to be completely gutted.

In the grand scheme of home disasters, ours was tame. No one got hurt. We still had a roof over our heads (although with a giant tarp-covered hole in it) and we had insurance. And as much as it wasn't how I imagined spending my summer, the disaster provided me with an opportunity to make over Julian's room — a chance to convert his pace from a little boy's room into a nearly-teen's.

Transforming Julian's room

We promised Julian that he could pick any colour he wanted for the walls. He chose orange. The key to making a colour so vibrant work in a room so small is to hand your child a thick palette of oranges you can actually live with. He will think that he is in full control, when really you are.

FIVE TIPS I LEARNED ABOUT MAKING A SMALL BEDROOM FUNCTIONAL

1 Paint

If a room is small and doesn't have a great deal of natural light, like Julian's, try to keep the wall colour light — it'll help reflect whatever natural light is available. We used Benjamin Moore Simply White (the 2016 colour of the year) everywhere but one feature wall, which we painted in Orange Parrot. The orange wall actually works quite well. It gives the room a nice pop of colour and when the sun does shine through his west-facing window, a beautiful warm glow fills his room. He just thinks the orange wall is cool and that he may have succeeded in one-upping me.

2 Furniture

Choose space-saving furniture. Keep the scale of the furniture on the small side and if you can, avoid filling up the room with furniture. Stick to what is necessary. We got rid of a large vintage dresser and replaced it with a metal bookcase. A couple of baskets sit on the bottom shelf holding socks and underwear and can easily be pulled out. A vintage desk and nightstand found on Craigslist have drawers and storage space to hold belongings but they don't take up a lot of room.

3 Organizing knick-knacks

Collections don't have to be hidden away — put them on display. Although Julian's beloved Lego hasn't been used in quite a while, we poured it into a big glass jar and it sits on a shelf looking all colourful with the hope that one day it will look enticing enough that my son will abandon his iPad for it. Award ribbons are displayed on an old cash register tray found at an antique market. We hung medals from hooks.

4 Smart storage

If possible, choose furniture that has more than one function such as a bed with drawers underneath. Clothing went into a built-in on an odd-shaped wall opposite his bed. We added an Ikea dresser from the Pax system with shelving above and a rod to hang clothing that isn't foldable. Space under his bed was utilized with a trundle-type box on wheels that holds off-season clothing, books and toys.

5 Embrace the space

It is what it is. Small rooms can also be cosy retreats for kids away from their busy, often overscheduled lives. The key is to keep the space free of too much clutter and a space that has, in theory, a place for everything. In reality, a teenager lives there so the spillover from boxes and bins is probably inevitable.

Remember!

One day they will wake up and realize that this space, whatever its size, is home and they are lucky to have a warm non-inflatable bed and a ceiling where the light is from a fixture and not the sky. They will pick up their dirty smelly socks and soccer gear and put them in the laundry basket and open their door once again. In the meantime, please pour me another glass of wine.

DEBRA NORTON/FOR TORSTAR NEWS SERVICES

Living in the moment

Digreen Homes connects with the GTA's most vibrant communities

CONTRIBUTED

The history of Digreen Homes — one of the most successful young housing development companies in the Greater Toronto Area — goes back decades.

"Our expertise began in construction," says Mohsin Masood, a director and co-owner of the Markham, Ontario-based developer. Digreen's parent company, Digram Developments, started out building infrastructure for home sites before launching its own home construction company under the Digreen banner.

Masood is the third generation of his family to be involved in the construction and development business. Since 2014, Digreen has been building in Markham, Brampton, Caledon, Vaughan, Oakville and other parts of the GTA.

Digram's expertise with infrastructure and Digreen Homes' innovation in constructing homes helps prospective buyers feel confident that water mains, curbs and other asphalt work will be on schedule when it's time to move in.

"We see ourselves as real community builders," Masood says. "Because of our experience with providing infrastructure, we plan our developments with sidewalks, parks and schools in mind."

Life and style

As much as Digreen is committed to building high quality homes, they also know that prospective owners aren't just seeking walls and a roof, but also a lifestyle. "We follow what people want," says Masood. "Six years ago it was all single-family homes." Now, one of the biggest shifts is toward smaller spaces. These buyers range from first-time homeowners who are concerned about their environmental footprint to downsizers who want to spend less time on home maintenance.

For example, the Residences of 16th Avenue project in Markham is an exclusive collection of brick and stone townhomes. "The Residences are based on the current pulse. We can offer townhouses that make ownership affordable while satisfying the buyers' lifestyle."

Part of that lifestyle is The Residences' proximity to Markham's vibrant social scene. In fact, the city's Chinese restaurants were recently celebrated by the New York Times. The development is also close to a wide selection of parks, schools, shops and other culinary treasures. All of these urban amenities make the location extremely attractive to first-time buyers and downsizers alike.

CONTRIBUTED

Open spaces

Digreen is also committed to building communities for those who crave a taste of a quieter life. "Different people have different needs," says Masood. And for folks who want a slower pace, Stowmarket Springs in Caledon off Kennedy Road offers a collection of single-family homes designed for those who want a more rural experience.

"Caledon is one of those communities that has a country feel," adds Masood. "We see a lot of families and through our parent company we provided parks and schools. Plus, it is surrounded by a natural greenbelt." Digreen is also sensitive to preserving the local culture. "People want that country feeling, so we want our development to integrate with the community." Each development, he says, is a multiphase community. After the initial block of homes is completed, the next block is planned and built, meaning that Digreen stays invested in the community after buyers move in. "We are always thinking of the future."

Home for all

Another of Digreen's current projects is the Torbram Countryside Crossing in Mayfield — a development in Brampton. According to the government of Ontario, Brampton is one of the fastest growing communities in Canada. Because it is located along Ontario's Innovation Super Corridor, there are dense pockets of start-ups and research institutions. And this energy is attracting home buyers from across the GTA, the province and around the world.

"A lot of people are coming to Brampton," says Masood. "Which makes it very diverse." He adds: "There are so many great places to hang. There's always something happening in Brampton." As a result, Torbram Countryside Crossing offers something for everybody. Currently in preconstruction, this development reflects the diversity of Brampton by offering a mix of single-family homes, townhouses and midrise units. As the name suggests, it is a little bit country and a little bit city, with urban amenities close at hand like easily accessible transit, shopping, schools and dining (says Mamood: "Our team really enjoys going out for food when we're onsite").

The future

While home buyers may have various reasons why they are attracted to Digreen's communities, one thing they all have in common is a need for quality construction. Homes built by Digreen include a number of standard, high-end fixtures and features such as hardwood floors, granite countertops, oak staircases and fiberglass doors. The company also uses engineered lumber and synthetic pipes, Energy Star-certified windows and doors and insulation with a higher energy rating than other homebuilders. That's because the company wants homeowners to be able to move in with confidence but also to be able to settle in, build roots and rest easy for years to come. Next on the plate for Digreen are developments in Oakville and Vaughan. Masood adds that "because most of our developments have multiple phases, if you missed out on the first phase, keep checking the website for phase two."

Digreen Homes

Digreen Homes is a 3rd generation builder with expertise in both residential and commercial construction. At the core of the company's values is to build a home or commercial property that everyone is proud of.

Digreen is committed to providing superior craftsmanship using the highest caliber products combined with unparalleled features and finishes in every home they build, and takes special care in designing practical layouts and elevations in building your dream home.

Stowmarket Springs in Caledon

A new community of spacious single family homes on 36' lots in beautiful Caledon.

Residences of 16th Avenue

An exclusive collection of stunning brick and stone townhomes in Markham

Torbram Countryside Crossing in Mayfield

Whether you are looking to downsize, upsize or upgrade, you can find your perfect home within our collection of singles, towns and midrise units in Brampton

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www.digreenhomes.ca | info@digreen.ca | 905.513.7999

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

CONSTRUCTION TO START SOON AT J. DAVIS HOUSE

The countdown is on to the start of construction at J. Davis House, the highly successful new condominium that is enhancing Toronto's well-loved Davisville Village with a residential option like no other.

Brought to you by builders Mattamy Homes and Biddington Homes, J. Davis House is already over 95 per cent per cent sold. Buyers need to hurry to take advantage of pre-construction pricing. The suites are being snapped up by locals who live in and love this area of the city, as well as purchasers coming from across the Greater Toronto Area.

They have the opportunity to live in a gracious mid-rise nine-storey condominium in an enviable location just one block from Davisville subway station (making downtown Toronto only minutes away) and walking distance to a wealth of amenities. In fact, WalkScore.com ranks J. Davis House's location 96 out of 100 and calls it a "Walker's, Riders and Biker's Paradise." It is also a convenient place to live for drivers, as access to Highway 401 and the Don Valley Parkway is 15 minutes away.

Adding to its appeal, the established Davisville neighbourhood is home to an intriguing mélange of retail venues, from antique shops to eclectic fashion boutiques. The area also features art galleries, libraries, excellent schools, spas, movie theatres and recreational facilities.

People come from all over to purchase vegetables, fruit and more at the local seasonal farmers' market, indulge in their heritage décor passion at Restoration Hardware and find the perfect gift for kids at ever-popular Mable's Fables children's bookstore.

An outing for something to eat can be anything from grabbing a quick cappuccino and Danish, to chatting over a leisurely brunch, noshing on wings and fries at the pub or exploring international cuisine in an ethnic eatery. And in this location-location-location, residents can walk their dogs, play tennis, go for a bike ride, take a brisk walk or jog, and get out the binoculars to observe a variety of species of birds and other wildlife.

It's easy, with Moore Park, the Rosedale Ravine, Beltline Trail, June Rowlands Park and Neshama Playground/Oriole Park so close by.

Davisville was named for John Davis, who founded the village in 1840. To honour him and his legacy, Mattamy and Biddington chose the name J. Davis House for their stately condominium community, which encompasses an entire city block.

The area's industrial heritage is reflected in its exterior by Graziani+Corazza Architects Inc., with burnt burgundy-coloured piers integrated into the design. From the second to sixth floors, horizontal banding in precast creates glass boxes that add a contemporary flair. A podium of architectural limestone features retail venues along Yonge and residential suites on Belsize Drive. Terraced back at the seventh floor, J. Davis House has minimal impact on the street. From the eighth floor up, the recessed and glazed glass-block balconies catch the eye with the interplay of light and shadow during the day. The result is at once striking and timeless.

Within J. Davis House, residents will enjoy the exclusive use of stylish amenities expertly appointed by Graziani+Corazza+Biase Interior Architecture Inc. A stunning open-air lobby will provide a fitting spot for attentive 24/7 concierge service. Exercising, unwinding, relaxing and entertaining will be a breeze, with this condominium featuring a fully equipped fitness area, yoga studio, sauna, party room, games/billiards room and guest suite. And what better way to relax than on the residence's barbecue terrace on the fifth floor, with its lounge area, fireplace and water feature.

The suites themselves are designed and finished to accommodate even the most sophisticated of tastes. Each includes a private balcony, from which residents can drink in lush views of the treetops through to the rest of the city. Selected suites feature room-sized terraces.

Among the top-quality features and finishes are smooth ceilings, floor-to-ceiling double-glazed Low E windows, plus an ensuite laundry with full-size ENERGY STAR®-rated stacked washer and dryer. European-designed gourmet kitchens are graced with deep upper cabinets, under-cabinet lighting, quartz countertops and a stainless steel appliance package. Every bathroom includes cultured marble countertops, and standalone showers have rain shower-style showerheads.

Choose from one-bedroom to two-bedroom plus den suites in sizes from 515 to 1,070 square feet. Prices range from $350,990 to $904,990.

J. Davis House is brought to you by two companies with longstanding records of success. North America's largest privately owned builder, multi-award-winning Mattamy Homes is a real estate developer with over 35 years of experience, and has built more than 70,000 homes across Canada and the United States. The company is consistently ranked first in quality, value and customer satisfaction.

Living up to its motto "Building quality for generations," family-owned real estate developer Biddington Group of Companies has a history that dates back to the 1960s. The firm's portfolio includes more than two million square feet of industrial, commercial and residential units.

Find out more

To find out more about J. Davis House, visit the Sales Centre at 1955 Yonge St., steps north of Davisville Avenue. Hours are Mondays to Thursdays from noon to 8 p.m., Fridays from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., and weekends from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. You can also discover a wealth of information at jdavishouse.com.

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Construction tentative to begin late 2016. Prices, specifications, availability and promotions are subject to change without notice. Illustration is artist's impression. E.&O.E.

Today's crafts, tomorrow's keepsakes

THE HOLIDAYS

There's no better time for DIY projects

Making your own ornaments and decorations for the holidays has its own rewards — the need to create is strong in many of us — but it feels particularly good to dig out your art supplies at this time of year.

"At the heart of it, this is what Christmas means to me — passing along warmth, memories, tradition, stories and so much more," says Bob Richter author of A Very Vintage Christmas (Rowman & Littlefield).

Richter keeps his childhood memories alive by decorating with vintage ornaments, some of which he received as a small child from relatives. Each delicate piece evokes a memory.

"As my grandmother grew older, she took pleasure in letting me decorate her tree, and I have many happy memories of doing it," Richter reminisces in his book.

"Now one of my favourite and most treasured ornaments is her favourite Santa Claus. Each year when I hang him on my tree, I think of her and smile."

Our children's handmade ornaments — perhaps incorporating a tiny handprint, a school photo or the year of its making — evoke similar sentiments every holiday season.

"Especially in this culture of time-pressed, technology-obsessed and often distracted people, I think it's more important than ever to pass along the things that really connect us," says Richter. "And Christmas does that."

These ornaments can be crafted using simple items around the house, such as toothpicks, yarn and cinnamon sticks. Crafting ornaments gives families an activity to do together and provides ornaments that may become next year's treasures.
ERIKA LAPRESTO/WOMAN'S DAY VIA THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

From the December/January pages of Woman's Day magazine come a few ornaments that evoke holidays past. These crafts require just the simplest of materials, such as toothpicks, yarn and wooden clothespins.

Especially when little glue-sticky fingers are at work, these crafts could become next year's treasures.

Knit bauble

"The ball ornament is the most recognizable ornament at Christmastime," says Woman's Day lifestyle director Taryn Mohrman. "You can use one that's a little chipped with a bit of yarn, you can turn it into something that evokes soft and cozy, and adds warmth to your tree."

Remove the metal top from a plain ball ornament. Hold two colours of yarn together and hot-glue them inside the opening of the ornament. Once dry, wrap both strands around the ornament to cover it completely; use hot glue to secure as you go.

Then apply red acrylic paint to the balls of two rock candy sticks, and trim the ends into points using scissors. Once dry, thread these "knitting needles" through the yarn on the ornament and replace the metal top.

Sweet scented tree

"These ornaments make great gift toppers," says Mohrman.

Bend a nine-centimetre piece of naturally coiled wrapped wire, available at crafts stores, in half to form a loop, and then gently push each end into the hollow part of a cinnamon stick. Use hot glue to attach cut sprigs of fresh rosemary for branches and small gems for ornaments.

Sparkling starburst

This ornament "is about the metallic, the glitter and the shine," says Mohrman.

Carefully push whole and halved toothpicks into a four centimetre foam ball, and then apply one or two coats of silver spray paint. While the ornament's still wet, dust fine silver glitter over it. Use a dab of hot glue to attach a string for hanging.

EVEN EASIER

Richter suggests stringing popcorn and cranberry chains — three popcorns for each cranberry — and tying hole-punched vintage holiday cards to tree branches with red ribbon. Find boxes of old cards at flea markets for a few dollars, he says.

Clothespin snowflake

"This is a good sturdy ornament that can be packed away and stand the test of time," says Mohrman.

You need: eight clothespins, craft glue, white acrylic paint, a paintbrush, a foam paintbrush, white glitter, red string and scissors.

Start by carefully sliding the metal clips off of the eight clothespins and discard. Reattach two wooden clothespin pieces by gluing the flat sides together. Repeat for the remaining wood pieces. Arrange these reattached wood pieces in the shape of a snowflake and glue together at the base; let dry completely.

Apply white paint to the edges and one side of the snowflake. While the paint is still wet, sprinkle on white glitter.

Once dry, flip the snowflake over and apply paint and glitter to the other side.

Finally, slip a length of red string through one of the openings in the snowflake and tie the ends into a bow; use it to hang the ornament.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

TRENDS

Furry, fuzzy and fluffy holiday decor with a soft touch

This season, faux furs, wools and other softly textured materials are giving holiday decor a cozy, festive feel.

The trend was prominent at this fall's Maison et Objet trade show in Paris. Booths were populated with winsome, appliqued, felt people and animals. Glamorous, jewel-toned feather trees dressed up tabletops. There were furry pillows printed with wildlife photos or embellished with metallic threads, sequins and pearls.

"That natural, organic, homespun feeling was all over the runways and it's trending at home, too," says New York designer Elaine Griffin. "For holiday, it manifests as an emphasis on bringing the outdoors in — think stylish, simple-chic arrangements of branches, leaves, berries, pine cones and moss — coupled with cozy, textured, wintry textiles like felt, faux fur and chenille."

There's a lot of versatility in these materials because faux fur, brushed wool, hides, and even velvet or feathers can say "winter cabin" as easily as "luxury suite." It's all in how you incorporate other style elements.

Emily Henderson, host of HGTV's "Secrets from a Stylist" and a Target home-style expert, is also a fan.

"Yarn and wovens are two of my favourites — they make a space feel extra warm and welcoming, which is what the holidays are all about," she says.

Little cone trees wrapped in cream-colored yarn, from Target's Threshold holiday collection, make a cozy tablescape. Here too are felted wool deer, bears and snowmen ready to create an arboreal winter woodland. A photo-printed stag on a soft, velvety throw pillow makes for a welcoming accessory. Restoration Hardware's felt stocking garland is a different take on the advent calendar. And there are plushy gift bags and stockings in faux mink, coyote or wolf fur.

At Z Gallerie, long-haired faux fur runners, tree skirts and wine bags come in cream or grey. Frontgate has Christmas stockings crafted of sumptuous coral or burgundy velvet and Grandin Road has a collection of hooked wool pillows with whimsical images of moose, cardinals, foxes and various canines sporting holiday garb.

A faux fur throw that looks like pheasant feathers could be repurposed as a glamorous tree skirt.

Or get creative with five feet of chocolate-y brown faux fur trim, from New Orleans-based ribbon designer Donna Stevens. It could edge a mirror, wrap a gift or garland a tree, perhaps.

Children and nature lovers might enjoy Pier 1's whimsical stockings embroidered with owls or squirrels and embellished with a faux fur collar, wing and tail. Red and white felt snowflakes come in garland or placemat form.

Another nice thing about this trend is that it isn't limited to Christmas; if you're celebrating Hanukkah, you can easily incorporate some blues and silvers. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Restoration Hardware's charming wool felt advent calendar stocking garland is a clever way to count down the days to Christmas. Right: Target's tabletop tree dressed in strands of yarn
HANDOUT

metro SPORTS

The men's ski events are off next week due to warm weather, the first time in 29 years a World Cup downhill at Lake Louise has been cancelled

Matthews' drought all part of big-league learning curve

NHL

Babcock's faith in No.1 pick solid, Nylander ends barren run

One Toronto Maple Leafs rookie quietly put an end to a lengthy goal drought on Tuesday night, but it was not Auston Matthews.

William Nylander, lingering in Matthews' shadow all season-long, scored the Leafs' sixth and final goal in a 6-2 win over the Nashville Predators. It was the first goal for the 20 year old since Oct. 25, a dry spell of nine games that was actually equal to Matthews, heading into the night, if lacking anywhere near the same attention.

"Of course, it's nice being able to be on the side a little bit," Nylander said with a grin, referring to all the extra attention and pressure Matthews has faced.

Matthews had a team-high five shots in Toronto's sixth win in eight tries at home, but failed to score for the 10th consecutive game. The 19-year-old, who has only two assists during the offensive slowdown, was relatively quiet in almost 18 minutes against the Predators. He did muster a pair of quality chances against fill-in goaltender Marek Mazanec, including an attempt from the top of the face-off circle in the second period which sailed through traffic and nearly found the back of the net.

His last goal came on Oct. 25 against the Tampa Bay Lightning, Toronto's final goal in a 7-3 loss. He has only two goals in 15 games since his historic four-goal NHL debut, a cooling off period that's not been without chances. Of the two, Nylander had actually been far quieter and yet he was the one to end the goal drought first.

"When you don't score for a longer period of time it maybe gets in your mind a little bit," said Nylander.

Matthews is admittedly facing some of that right now.

Leafs head coach Mike Babcock has professed utmost confidence in the Arizona native though, noting the difficulties of handling centre duties as a first-year. Babcock has employed video of Sidney Crosby and Henrik Zetterberg as a means of helping Matthews along.

"Sometimes the bounces don't go your way in these little droughts and that stuff's going to happen in a long season," Matthews said on Tuesday morning.

It's worth noting Matthews is already almost halfway to the total number of games he suited up for in Zurich last season (36).

The Leafs, too, are still badly out-chancing the opposition when he's on the ice and puck possession indicators remain strong despite the lack of production. Matthews believes he's grown stronger defensively in recent weeks and he continues to fire plenty of shots, leading Toronto with 63 in 16 games.

Only three players in hockey for that matter — Brent Burns, Vladimir Tarasenko and Jakub Voracek — have fired more shots on goal so far this season.

Babcock said the Leafs needed Matthews to become a "dominant, dominant centre" and expressed confidence that that would happen by Christmas time.

"We think he's a very good player already," Babcock said. "But we think he can be lights out both with and without the puck." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sometimes the bounces don't go your way in these little droughts and that stuff's going to happen in a long season. Auston Matthews

61%

Matthews went 43 per cent on faceoffs in the first five games, 53 per cent in the following five and 61 per cent in the last five outings before Tuesday night (he went 5 for 13 on the draw against the Predators).

Zach Hyman, front to back, Auston Matthews and William Nylander celebrate a pre-season goal against the Canadiens on Oct. 2. The No. 1 pick Matthews has cooled since his four-goal NHL debut in Ottawa on Oct. 12. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

NHL IN BRIEF

Injured Stamkos out indefinitely for Lightning

Tampa Bay Lightning forward Steven Stamkos will be out of the lineup indefinitely due to a right knee injury, the team said Wednesday.

General manager Steve Yzerman said Stamkos suffered a lateral meniscus tear in his right knee in Tuesday night's game against the Detroit Red Wings. Stamkos has 20 points (9-11) in 17 games this season. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Flames' Gaudreau to have surgery on fractured finger

Calgary Flames forward Johnny Gaudreau was scheduled to undergo surgery Wednesday to repair a fractured finger.

Gaudreau suffered the injury in Tuesday's 1-0 win over Minnesota. A timeline for his return will be provided in the days ahead.

"It's his finger so it can be four (weeks), it can be six, you don't know," Flames coach Glen Gulutzan said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

New Jersey Devils' Hall undergoes knee surgery

New Jersey Devils left-winger Taylor Hall has had surgery on his left knee.

The Devils announced Wednesday that Hall had a torn meniscus repaired in the procedure performed by team physician Dr. Michael Shindle and Dr. Jonathan Glashow, the club's chief medical officer. He will be sidelined up to a month. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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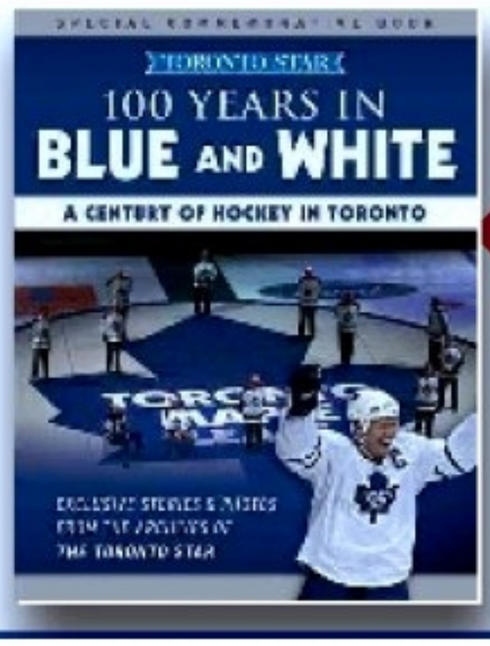

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MLB

Mad Max joins elite group with 2nd Cy

Max Scherzer of the Washington Nationals and Rick Porcello of the Boston Red Sox were named the Cy Young Award winners Wednesday.

Scherzer was the winner by a wide margin in the National League becoming the sixth pitcher to win the award in both leagues.

The right-hander led the majors with 284 strikeouts and topped the league with 20 wins. He beat out Chicago Cubs teammates Jon Lester and Kyle Hendricks.

Scherzer drew 25 of the 30 first-place votes from members of the Baseball Writers' Association of America. The award was announced on MLB Network.

After earning the AL honour in 2013 with Detroit, Scherzer joined Roger Clemens, Randy Johnson, Pedro Martinez, Gaylord Perry and Roy Halladay as winners in both leagues.

Scherzer is the first pitcher from a Washington franchise to win a Cy Young. The award was first presented in 1956.

While Scherzer was a clearcut victor, Porcello's margin of victory was much smaller.

Porcello got just eight first-place votes from members of the BBWAA while the Detroit Tigers' Justin Verlander drew 14. But Porcello drew more support across the board and was listed by all 30 voters — Verlander was left off two ballots.

Verlander finished second and Cleveland's Corey Kluber was third.

Porcello led the majors with 22 wins and posted an ERA of 3.15. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Max Scherzer GETTY IMAGES

RAPTORS DINOS TAKE ON DUBS ON DRAKE NIGHT Warriors point guard Stephen Curry passes the ball as the Raptors' Kyle Lowry looks on at Air Canada Centre on Wednesday night. The game marked Kevin Durant's Toronto debut as a member of the Warriors. Go to metronews.ca for the story. FRANK GUNN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

IN BRIEF

Howarth scheduled to have cancerous tumour removed

Longtime Toronto Blue Jays broadcaster Jerry Howarth is being treated for prostate cancer and is scheduled to undergo surgery next week to have a small tumour removed. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada, U.S. women to clash in two-game series

The Canadian women's hockey team will play the United States in a two-game series next month.

The games will be held in Plymouth, Mich., on Dec. 17 and in Sarnia, Ont., on Dec. 19.

Canada ended a six-game losing streak against the Americans with a 3-2 win Nov. 4 in a preliminary round game at the Four Nations Cup, but the U.S. defeated Canada 5-3 a day later. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Machida banned for doping

Former UFC light heavyweight champion Lyoto Machida has received an 18-month suspension for failing a doping test.

Machida was subsequently pulled from a bout with Dan Henderson. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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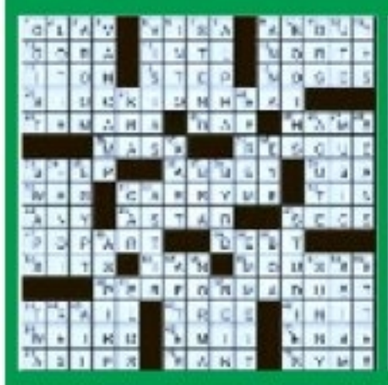

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Timberwolves grow weary of blown leads

NBA

Slow start has tempered optimism in Minnesota

Andrew Wiggins, front, of the Timberwolves and the Hornets' Nicolas Batum vie for the ball on Tuesday in Minneapolis, Minn. HANNAH FOSLIEN/GETTY IMAGES

With a roster full of some of the best young talent in the league and a new, playoff-tested coach to lead them, the Minnesota Timberwolves entered this season as a trendy pick to finally end a 12-year post-season drought.

Ten games into this still-young season, Tom Thibodeau finally erupted after watching his team give away yet another double-digit lead in a loss to the Charlotte Hornets that dropped them to 3-7.

It's not that the Timberwolves are losing games this season that has angered him. It's how they are losing them, with the same mistakes occurring over and over again, particularly during the third quarter of nearly every game.

"A big part of learning is trial and error. So when you go through something and it doesn't work, you should learn from it," Thibodeau said after a 115-108 loss to the Hornets on Tuesday. "The second time around, it shouldn't be the same way. That has to change and it has to change fast."

-91
The T-Wolves third-quarter point differential.

The Timberwolves have been one of the best offensive teams in the league this season, with Andrew Wiggins, Karl-Anthony Towns and Zach LaVine all showing skills that have fans cautiously hopeful that the franchise is finally ready to return to relevancy.

But they have been a disaster on defence and atrocious after halftime. They have been outscored by 91 points in their 10 third quarters this season, by far the worst margin in the league. Only one game this season have they outscored their opponent in that period — a 36-point win over Memphis in which the Grizzlies were resting stars Mike Conley and Marc Gasol.

The devastating ball movement that leads to wide open shots disappears, too. Thibodeau said his players "start holding and dancing with" the ball, which bogs down the flow. Contested jumpers lead to missed shots, which open up transition opportunities for their opponents.

The defence at the rim and on the perimeter is nonexistent. Layups, dunks and three-pointers rain down on their heads as they scramble to get things under control. Wash, rinse, repeat.

"We're playing really well and it just turns and ruins the whole game," LaVine said Wednesday. "It ruins all our spirits. Going into the next game, you feel like you've got it figured out. We're up 15, 12 points and we're going good and it's a nosedive." THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Prescott touts team first

NFL

Dallas rookie QB insists 'everybody plays a part'

Dak Prescott's interaction with his new backup wasn't much different after Tony Romo's heartfelt speech that conceded the Cowboys' starting job to the rookie quarterback.

Dallas coach Jason Garrett talked matter-of-factly to the 36-year-old about being No. 2 for the first time since Garrett joined the staff in 2007. And tight end Jason Witten, Romo's best friend on the team, wasn't sure what to make of all the fuss.

While the outside world spent two days pondering Romo's retirement or relocation — sometimes both — the Cowboys had another couple of workdays in a regular week.

"I think that was more for y'all than for me or for this team," Prescott said Wednesday , a day after Romo said the 23-year-old had earned the right to keep the job that Romo took from Drew Bledsoe in the middle of the 2006 season.

"We know each other, how we feel about the situation. He's been a great leader, a great model for me to look up to and watch every day. So I'm not surprised."

GETTY IMAGES

Prescott will start Sunday against Baltimore (5-4) looking for a franchise season-best ninth straight win, a run that has carried the Cowboys (8-1) to the best record in the NFL.

Romo, whose back injury in a pre-season game created the opening for Prescott, is expected to be his backup for the first time in the four-time Pro Bowler's first game on the active roster since last Thanksgiving.

A surprising success as a fourth-round pick that started training camp as a third-stringer, Prescott frequently said early in the winning streak that he was piloting Romo's team. He can't do that anymore since Romo himself has said otherwise. But Prescott still won't call it his team.

"This is our team," said Prescott, who is fourth in the NFL in passer rating with 14 touchdowns and just two interceptions. "I said that two minutes ago and I'll say it again. Everybody plays a part in our success in what's happened and they'll play a part in the adversity that comes."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

IN BRIEF

RG3 cleared for contact but not ready to practise

Robert Griffin III's comeback isn't quite ready to begin.

Cleveland's QB, who broke a bone in his left shoulder in the Browns' season opener, has been cleared for non-contact drills and could play again this season.

However, he won't practise this week and it's not clear when he will.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Brady laughs off "Deflategate" in new ad

Tom Brady is making fun of "Deflategate" in a new Foot Locker commercial.

The ad begins with two Foot Locker customers questioning how the shoe retailer's annual Thanksgiving sale could continue to be great year after year. Brady overhears and tells the men, "Just because something is great year after year doesn't mean anything is going on."

Brady closes by asking why Foot Locker should be punished "for something that never even happened."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Security tight for Mexico

Houston Texans players are being advised by the team not to leave the hotel and not to order room service during their trip to Mexico City for Monday night's game against the Oakland Raiders.

The game is part of the NFL's international series and the first NFL game in Mexico City since 2005.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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RECIPE One-Pot Tomato and Basil Chicken Pasta

PHOTO: MAYA VISNYEI

Ceri Marsh & Laura Keogh
For Metro Canada

This recipe is called having your cake and eating it, too, since you make a satisfyingly yummy meal and then have barely any cleanup.

Ready in 30 minutes
Prep time: 5 minutes
Cook time: 25 minutes
Serves 4

Ingredients
- 1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breast
- Kosher salt and pepper
- 3 Tbsp extra virgin olive oil
- 4 cloves of garlic, minced
- 1x28-ounce can of tomatoes
- 1 1/2 cups low-sodium chicken broth
- 1 cup water
- 2 cups penne pasta
- 1 cup freshly shaved Parmesan cheese, more for garnish
- 1 cup fresh basil leaves

Directions

1. Generously season chicken breast with kosher salt and pepper. Cut into 1-inch pieces.

2. Add olive oil to a large skillet over medium heat. Place the chicken in the pan and brown on all sides. Lower the heat, add garlic and cook for 1 minute.

3. Add the tomatoes, chicken broth, water and uncooked pasta to the pan. Bring this mixture to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Cover the pan and cook for about 15 minutes. Remove cover and cook for another 5 minutes, or until liquid is reduced by half.

4. Remove your skillet from the heat and gently stir in the Parmesan cheese. Serve individual portions with a sprinkling of fresh basil leaves and a bit more Parmesan cheese.

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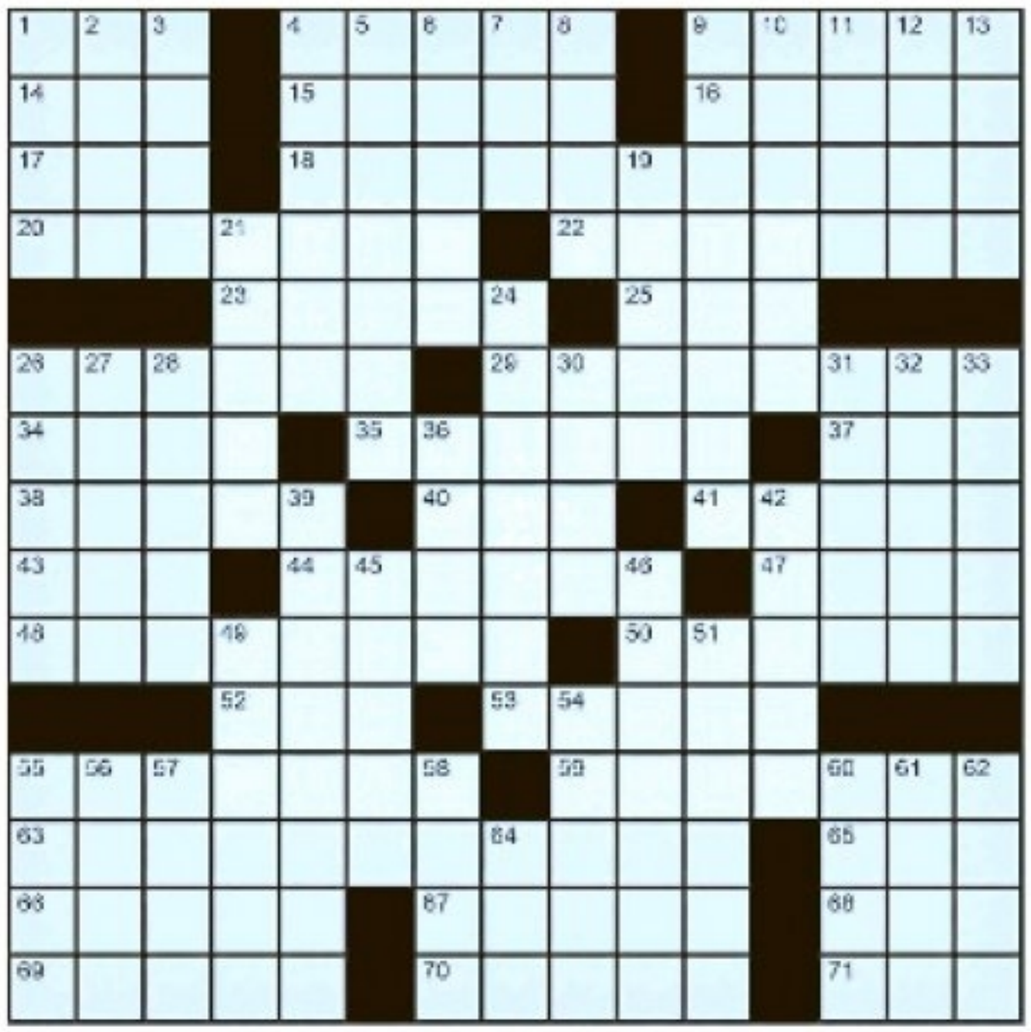
CROSSWORD Canada Across and Down

BY KELLY ANN BUCHANAN



ACROSS
1. Firth of Clyde topper
4. Belarus' capital
9. Awesome party
14. Montrealer's 'soul'
15. Flipping __ (Pregame tradition)
16. City in northern France
17. Baseball's Mr. Dykstra
18. New album by Inuk throat singer Tanya Tagaq
20. Collapse, cookie-style
22. Paid for dinner
23. Aware
25. Ms. Landers
26. Sports game outcomes
29. Vexers
34. 'Scotch' add-on (Stuff sprayed on a sofa, perhaps)
35. Uses a need-this-no-more office paper machine
37. Extinct New Zealand bird
38. Caper
40. Grocery store, e.g.
41. English actress Ms. Blunt
43. __ degree
44. Walks through the 'In' door
47. Extensions
48. Zaniest
50. From longest ago
52. Grand Opry link
53. South Pacific island group
55. Taxi trip: 2 wds.
59. Pass up
63. 'Ski Capital of Newfoundland and Labrador': 2 wds. (More at #4-Down)
65. Clash
66. Stables sound
67. 'Sea' suffix (Carried by the ocean)
68. Philosophy
69. 'Harry Potter' movies director David
70. Turn
71. "Never __ Never Again" (1983)

DOWN
1. Gym bag item
2. 'A' of USA [abbr.]
3. 'Desserts' detailer
4. __ Mountain (Ski resort located in the west coast of Newfoundland town at #63-Across)
5. Like fast food special orders of Pepsi or Coke
6. Attentive type
7. Lady's gent
8. Hand-make a scarf
9. Canadian ten cent piece schooner
10. Tedious listing of things
11. Dismounted
12. Gin flavouring
13. Mind the flock
19. Kraft, Aero or Tide, etc.
21. Weekday day, in Quebec City
24. Objectives
26. Haida Gwaii - British Columbia: Anthony Island village which is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, __ Gwaay Llnagaay
27. Bel __ (Opera singing style)
28. 'Straight'-meaning prefix
30. Close
31. French writer Mr. Zola
32. Breadbasket breads
33. Speak, archaically
36. Chart-topping songs
39. Dancing/singing/fun parties in Ireland
42. Athlete's prize
45. Dependent
46. Songbook standard: "Make __ Happy"
49. Gather grub
51. Binders, jacket, lunch storage spot
54. Love lots
55. "Our House" gr.
56. "I just had __."
...said the hot beverage enjoyer
57. "So __!" (Very well then)
58. Wanes
60. Goo Goo Dolls tune
61. Space mission org.
62. Ms. Rossum of acting
64. Turn to compost

IT'S ALL IN THE STARS Your daily horoscope by Francis Drake

Aries March 21 - April 20
For the most part, this is a feel-good day. However, do not make promises to family members that you can't keep. By evening, power struggles might take place. Just be cool.

Taurus April 21 - May 21
It's easy to overestimate things today, so be careful. People are inclined to exaggerate. Avoid conflict with others in the evening — it will be brief, but nasty.

Gemini May 22 - June 21
Your financial judgment might be a bit hazy today. You might spend too much or give away too much, or overestimate something. Be aware of this.

Cancer June 22 - July 23
Today the Moon is in your sign, at odds with Jupiter, which can make you too casual. You might ignore details. You might feel too lazy to do things.

Leo July 24 - Aug. 23
Because you feel sorry for someone who is less fortunate, you might be unrealistic in how you want to help him or her. Remember: True generosity is giving what is needed.

Virgo Aug. 24 - Sept. 23
When talking to a female friend today, resist the urge to promise more than you can deliver. Don't create a situation where someone else feels let down.

Libra Sept. 24 - Oct. 23
Do not volunteer for anything today, because in your eagerness, you might take on more than you can handle. Respect your own limitations. Be kind to yourself.

Scorpio Oct. 24 - Nov. 22
Travel plans look exciting! However, late in the day, make a point of avoiding controversial subjects like politics, religion and racial issues. You'll be glad you did.

Sagittarius Nov. 23 - Dec. 21
This is not an ideal day to decide how to divide an inheritance or figure out how to share something. Your financial judgment is a bit off. Use caution.

Capricorn Dec. 22 - Jan. 20
Enjoy conversations with others today, because you feel laid-back and easygoing. Nevertheless, avoid conflict this evening, because it will be too intense. Oh yeah.

Aquarius Jan. 21 - Feb. 19
Tackle what is realistic at work today. Be careful about overestimating something or taking on more than you can comfortably handle.

Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
You will enjoy sports events and playful activities with children today. However, by evening, be patient with kids and romantic partners in order to avoid conflicts.

CONCEPTIS SUDOKU by Dave Green

Every row, column and box contains 1-9

	1	5				6	7	
4			8		6			9
3			9					5
7			4					3
	6	3				7	9	
5			7					2
8			6					1
6			3		8			7
	2	9				8	3	

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